Monkey business draws a crowd

Dapper primate found on the loose at Toronto Ikea PAGE 13

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN EXPECTING

UNUSUAL PARENTING CHALLENGES AWAIT WILL AND KATE PAGE 29

VANCOUVER metro®

Monday, December 10, 2012

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Ohly, a Burmese mountain dog, was rescued from Mount Seymour on Saturday after being lost for almost two weeks. RYAN MORASIEWICZ/NORTH SHORE RESCUE

Ohly moly: Missing dog saved

Mount Seymour. Pooch got stuck in 'suicide gully' before being scooped up by North Shore Rescue

Ohly, a two-year-old Burmese mountain dog that went missing on Mount Seymour two weeks ago, was reunited with his family Saturday.

Owner Steve Goad said Ohly was so happy to be home that he slept in bed with him and his wife Alyssa Saturday night, something he usually never does.

The dog also refused to go outside even when nature called.

"He's doing well," said Goad. "He's got a bit of a fever but otherwise he's all right."

The search for Ohly began after he ran from a Mount Seymour parking lot Nov. 25. North Shore Rescue got involved Thursday.

Goad said he never lost faith that his dog would be rescued, aside from one moment when Ohly was stuck in a steep area called "suicide gully" that search-and-rescue helicopters couldn't reach. Luckily the dog turned uphill and was able to be saved.

"I'd always believed we'd get him back," said Goad. "I was out there looking for him every day."

Goad accompanied a team of seven ground rescuers Saturday morning, who were joined later by a helicopter rescue team.

When Ohly climbed up from the gully, rescuers were able to get hold of his collar and pull him to safety.

North Shore Rescue estimates the cost of saving Ohly to be about $7,000, due to the fact that it used a helicopter. The organization decided to rescue the dog because it didn't want to risk having untrained searchers entering the dangerous terrain Ohly was lost in.

The Goads are asking that people donate any amount they can.

"It'd be great if people could help out."

CARA MCKENNA/FOR METRO

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Giraffe

Jafari died of degenerative brain disorder

He may have lost his partner and son one year before his death, but the Greater Vancouver Zoo's 12-year-old giraffe, Jafari, didn't die of a broken heart.

An investigation into Jafari's death last month found he died of a degenerative brain disease called encephalomalacia, a news release says.

The disease is common among animals with fermenting stomachs such as cattle, sheep, deer and giraffes, according to Dr. Hilmsworth, an independent veterinary anatomic pathologist.

Jafari died quickly and with little or no suffering, the investigation revealed.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

Grave crime

Police board reviews diplomatic-immunity rules

The Vancouver Police Board will be reviewing diplomatic-immunity rules on Wednesday.

The proposed new rules will put tighter restrictions on when consular officers can be arrested.

The police board's report states that consular officers should not be liable for arrest for most crimes, except in the case of "grave crime."

Grave crime is defined as crime that carries a sentence of five years or more in jail.

In this case, the offender would be taken into custody and restrained.

"Immunity for consular officers is greater than our present procedure reflects," the report says.

CARA MCKENNA/METRO

Carol and Norm Todd speak to a crowd at Riverside Secondary in Port Coquitlam on Sunday following the inaugural Snowflake Walk, named for their daughter, Amanda, who took her own life in October after repeated harassment and bullying. PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

Snowflake Walk honours bullied teen

Amanda Todd. Mother thanks community for support at special walk in memory of Amanda, calls for end to bullying

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
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Every step that each person made at a special walk created in honour of Amanda Todd meant the world to her mother.

The inaugural Snowflake Walk, held on Sunday in Port Coquitlam, united more than 500 people against bullying, something Carol Todd said wasn't really surprising, given how the City of Port Coquitlam has supported her and her family in the past two months.

Her daughter, Amanda, took her own life in October after being exploited online and bullied.

"(Amanda) touched a lot of people's lives by what she did and said, even people who didn't know her," Todd said. "They feel that they have a piece of her in their heart."

Todd's nickname for her 15-year-old daughter was Princess Snowflake, and she hopes her daughter's story will spark a change in how people treat each another.

Quote

"(Amanda) touched a lot of people's lives by what she did and said, even people who didn't know her."

Carol Todd, mother of Amanda Todd, who committed suicide in October

"I would like the whole world to make a shift in their way of thinking and to start to end bullying behaviours.... If we can smother the world with kindness, it would make a big difference in how everyone feel about themselves," Todd said.

The teen's death has spurred the creation of a bullying bylaw in PoCo and numerous anti-bullying forums.

Gary Mauris, founder of Be Someone, an anti-bullying campaign, said the commitment from people wanting to get behind the various initiatives has been overwhelming.

"We've just been flooded with people who want to make a difference, who want to be someone and want to give up their time to spread this message," he said.

Singer-songwriter Elise Estrada, music producer Adam Hurstfield and Real Housewives of Vancouver star Mary Zilba were also present to show their support for the Todd family.

BCCLA gets new director as world celebrates Human Rights Day

Civil liberties. Common thread is 'human dignity, the right for people to make choices for themselves,' says man taking helm

EMILY JACKSON
emily.jackson@metronews.ca

The B.C. organization that fights for human rights and freedoms appointed a lawyer opposed to the Enbridge pipeline as its new executive director.

Josh Paterson will take the helm of the B.C. Civil Liberties Association on Jan. 1 to replace David Eby, who will run for the NDP against Christy Clark in Vancouver–Point Grey in the May 2013 provincial election.

The BCCLA advocates and provides legal help on issues such as police accountability and the right to die.

As the world celebrates Human Rights Day on Monday to commemorate the United Nations' 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Paterson pointed out there are still many problems here in B.C.

Whether the issue is Internet privacy, refugee laws, security of the person, police accountability, freedom to oppose the government or women's rights to reproductive freedom, the BCCLA plays the role of watchdog to ensure the government doesn't infringe on basic rights, Paterson said.

"The common thread really is human dignity, the right for people to make choices for themselves, the right for people to be free from state interference," he said.

For the past four years, Paterson has travelled the province, defending people's environmental rights against Big Oil's pipeline and tanker projects that threaten communities, he said in an interview Sunday. As a lawyer at West Coast Environmental Law, he was "deeply involved in the fight against Enbridge."

The chance to work on a broad array of issues attracted him to the BCCLA, he said.

"It's really important for people and citizens around the province to have an organization they can call on, that they can trust, that knows their communities."

Josh Paterson will replace David Eby at the helm of the BCCLA on Jan. 1, 2013. COURTESY OF BLACKBIRD

Tanker crash. Westshore Terminals spends weekend cleaning up coal

Efforts to stop more coal from falling into the Georgia Strait are underway after a massive tanker crashed through a coal exporter's conveyor belt at Roberts Bank in Delta early Friday.

The 180,000-tonne Cape Apricot — a ship too large to traverse the Panama Canal — destroyed more than 100 metres of the belt leading to Westshore Terminals' largest loading berth at 1 a.m., dumping about 30 tonnes (one-third of a rail car) of coal sitting on the belt into the water.

"You're not expecting a ship to ram through your coal way," Westshore spokesman Ray Dykes said Sunday. "It's like when a car goes through a restaurant window — it's like we own the restaurant."

Vacuum trucks spent the weekend sucking up the remaining 100 tonnes of coal stranded on the belt, which feeds coal at high speeds to vessels parked at the berth, Dykes said.

An independent environmental adviser is also at the scene to assess the situation and advise Westshore how to deal with the coal in the water in an appropriate way, Dykes said. Westshore will wait for their advice before it demolishes the belt's unsafe parts and starts reconstruction.

The empty ship wasn't damaged and is now filling up at Westshore's smaller berth. The accident was not like an oil spill, because the coal is inert and will dissipate quickly, he said.

"If it was a major amount, dredging would be the normal process. This is not the case here," he said.

But the spill should make Port Metro Vancouver rethink coal-export expansion, Kevin Washbrook of Voters Taking Action on Climate Change said in a statement.

Friday crash

It's not clear how the crash occurred.

- The Transportation Safety Board did not return calls Sunday.

The accident appeared to release a "substantial plume of coal dust into the ocean," Washbrook said, according to a CKNW News Talk 980 photo. "Coal dust is a toxic substance containing heavy metals such as lead, arsenic and mercury."

Vancouver Coun. Adriane Carr has called for public consultation before any expansion projects are approved.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

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Boomers vs. Generation Y: Is there a rift on energy views?

Fossil fuels. Vast majority of Canadians want transition to clean energy: Polls

KATE WEBB
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Stereotypes and many a bitter blogger suggest Baby Boomers are to blame — or some say to thank — for supporting the rapid expansion of Canada's oil-and-gas sector.

But polls suggest Boomers' views are surprisingly close to those of their Generation Y offspring — and the vast majority of Canadians want to see a transition away from fossil fuels to a clean-energy economy.

Marc Lee, a senior economist with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, is speaking about the issue Tuesday at a Vancouver event called Bring Your Boomers, a series designed to foster inter-generational dialogue. The theme of the panel discussion is power and energy.

"The overarching problem is that no generation is really having influence on the political system relative to the concern that exists," Lee said in a phone interview Friday.

A Harris/Decima poll commissioned by Tides Canada this summer found there was almost no difference between the generations in their sense of urgency about exporting more of Canada's oil and natural gas — it's fairly low across the board.

An average of only 33 per cent nationwide ranked it as a high or top priority, although support was slightly higher among seniors, at 39 per cent.

The biggest differences were revealed when pollsters asked how much of a priority it is for Canada to reduce carbon pollution to slow climate change, and to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels like oil, gas and coal.

On the question of reducing carbon pollution, the percentage of Generation Y respondents that answered high or top-priority was 74 per cent, Generation X averaged 61 per cent and Boomers, 65 per cent.

When asked to rate the importance of reducing Canada's reliance on fossil fuels, 75 per cent of Generation Y respondents aged 18 to 34 called it a high or top priority, compared to 65 per cent of Boomers aged 45 and up, and 61 per cent of Generation X, aged 35 to 44.

Merran Smith, director of Clean Energy Canada at Tides Canada, said support was uniform across age demographics and consistently higher than two-thirds for using a portion of the country's oil wealth to invest in and create more jobs in renewable energy, as well as improving energy efficiency.

"Younger generations are definitely more concerned about carbon pollution and Canada taking a role to reduce our carbon footprint," she said.

Bring Your Boomers, an inter-generational dialogue on Power and Energy: Connecting the Dots, begins 7 p.m. on Dec. 11 at the Rio Theatre (1660 E. Broadway). Tickets cost $15 at the door.

For more information, visit bringyourboomers.com.

A oil tanker is guided by tug boats as it goes under the Lions Gate Bridge at the mouth of Vancouver harbour in May. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Metro asks Bring Your Boomers: What do you see as being the primary role of your generation in addressing Canada's energy challenges?

"Our generation is clearly responsible for delivering this impending catastrophe into the lives of our children and grandchildren. It is our responsibility to make both the personal changes needed as well as working for the system change required to ensure a sustainable future for all human beings on earth."

Boomer: Karen Cooling, 54
Union rep at the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada (CEP)

"My generation is the U-turn generation. We need to stop the shift to extreme energy development that is warming the planet so that the next generation can move to a truly sustainable economy."

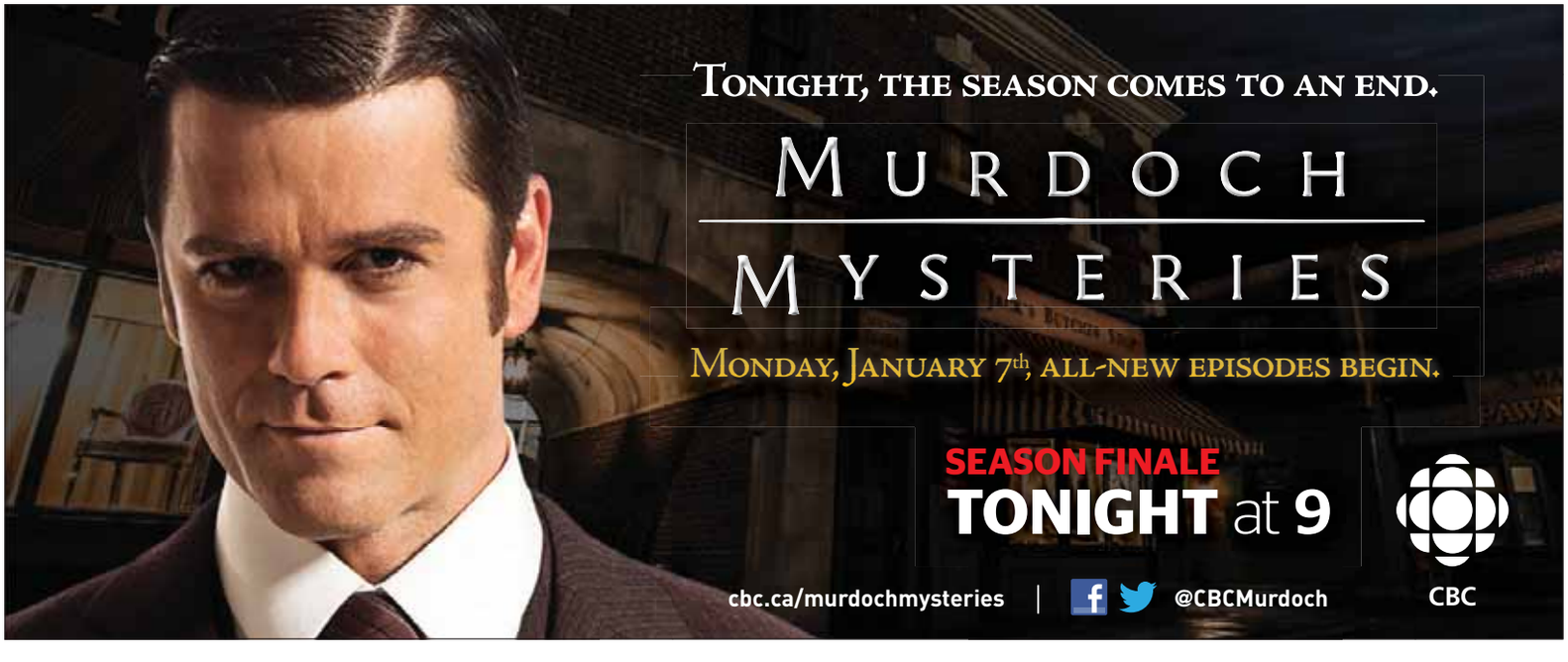
Generation X: Marc Lee, 42
Economist

"My generation will directly face the consequences of climate change, so it is incumbent on us to tackle our failed energy policies. With powerful tools at our disposal like social media, film and new methods for movement building, we are ideally positioned to lead the way to a more sustainable future."

Generation Y: Damien Gillis, 33
Documentary filmmaker, environmental journalist (co-founder and editor of The Common Sense Canadian)

"We need to be looking at a energy supply that benefits not only the earth presently, but the many generations of life to come. For us children I find it critically important that we take part in this fight and battle to convince our leaders into switching our main power source, for this will be the future our children will one day grow up in."

Generation Z: Ta'Kaiya Blaney, 11
Singer, songwriter, actor, activist



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Attempted murder. Police charge man in serious attacks on three women

The Vancouver police say they've charged a 35-year-old man from Alberta in serious attacks on three women in the city.

Police have said three women were attacked on Dec. 7 within about a half an hour of each other, including an 87-year-old woman.

A news release says a suspect was arrested near BC Place stadium shortly after the attacks.

Police say Nicholas Osuteye has been charged with three counts of attempted murder and one count each of assault and mischief.

Osuteye is in custody and his next court appearance hasn't been scheduled.

The 87-year-old, who wasn't identified by police until Saturday, remains in hospital in serious condition. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Aboriginal women. Chief keeps up calls for inquiry after B.C. teen's murder

The Assembly of First Nations says the recent murder of a 16-year-old native teen is yet another reason Ottawa should call a national public inquiry into missing and murdered aboriginal women.

National Chief Shawn Atleo said Sunday the death of Summer Star Elizabeth Krista-Lee Fowler in British Columbia has triggered an overwhelmingly painful reminder of losses suffered by other families whose loved ones have disappeared or been killed.

The addition of Fowler, who also went by CJ, to the lengthy list of women has prompted Atleo to urge Prime Minister Stephen Harper to make the matter a higher priority in order to prevent further crimes.

"I am profoundly saddened and offer my personal support and that of the Assembly of First Nations to the family of CJ Morningstar Fowler and her community," he said in a statement. "A death such as this touches us all."

Over the past week, members of the assembly gathered and committed to renew efforts to seek safety and justice for aboriginal citizens, as well as accountability for those who have died.

Aboriginal groups want an inquiry into an estimated 600 aboriginal women who have disappeared or been killed in the last two decades.

However, last month a meeting of provincial cabinet ministers only decided to debate the issue further in the spring. The ministers have said they want to take action to reduce the number of women who fall victim to violence each year.

B.C. Regional Chief Jody Wilson-Raybould said far too many young aboriginals are dying in tragic circumstances.

"We can and must do better as a society," she said, "so that others do not fall victim to the same tragedy of a system that ignores or treats differently those in society that are its most vulnerable." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cause for inquiry

600

Number of aboriginal women who have disappeared or been killed in the last two decades

Cypress area

Skier dies after backcountry fall

A skier in his 20s has died after a skiing mishap on backcountry slopes in the Vancouver area.

Police say the man, who has not been publicly identified, was in a backcountry area on Cypress near Hollyburn Ridge and the Baden Powell Trail on Saturday, when he fell into a muddy creek embankment.

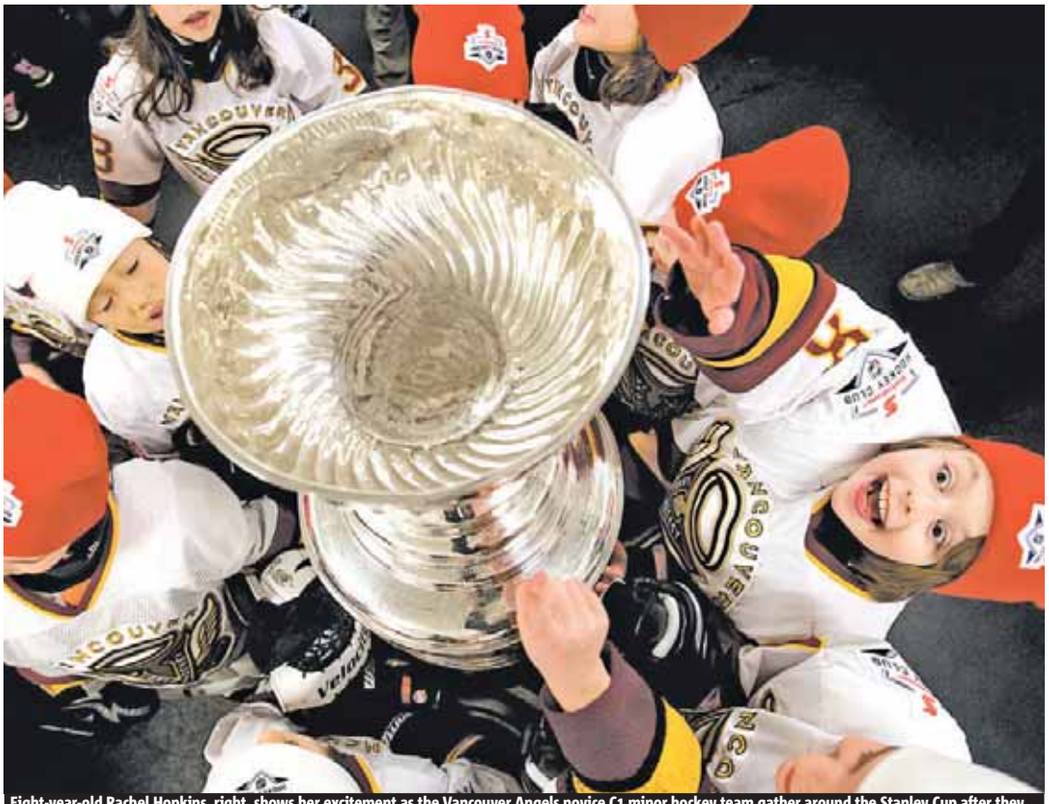
As the man's friend attempted to help him, they were found by snowshoers, who performed CPR. A search-and-rescue helicopter transported the man. He died Sunday in hospital. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Harassment lawsuit

RCMP deny allegations

The police officers and the RCMP doctor named in Cpl. Catherine Galliford's sexual-harassment lawsuit against the force have all filed statements of defence denying allegations.

Galliford filed her lawsuit in May, alleging nearly two decades of harassment and abuse by her colleagues and superiors. Galliford's lawsuit also named Const. Marvin Wawia, Supt. Mike Bergerman and Insp. Doug Henderson, RCMP physician Dr. Ian MacDonald and Const. Phil Little of the Vancouver police. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Eight-year-old Rachel Hopkins, right, shows her excitement as the Vancouver Angels novice C1 minor hockey team gather around the Stanley Cup after they were surprised with it before their practice in Vancouver on Friday. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

When Stanley Cup comes to town

No lock-out here. Vancouver Angels get 'awesome' surprise

CAM TUCKER
cam.tucker@metronews.ca

They thought it would just be another normal Friday-evening practice. It was anything but.

Members of the Vancouver Angels novice C1 hockey team, composed of girls aged seven and eight years old, received the surprise of the hockey season when they got to see the Stanley Cup up close before their practice at the Killarney Community Centre.

"That was awesome," exclaimed Rachel Hopkins, 8, who was the Angels' goalie for the skate.

As part of the Scotiabank Community Hockey Sponsorship Program, the Angels are one of five minor-hockey teams across the country randomly selected to have the Stanley Cup brought to their practice.

None of the players knew, and only a handful of parents were in on the surprise.

"I think they were in shock," said head coach Todd Hickling.

"I've been like a kid at Christmas. Last night I woke up about 10 times — 'Is it here yet? Is it time yet, is it time yet?'

"I've been so excited and I've been ready to bust because we haven't been able to tell anybody," said Hickling.

Players suited up in their pads and uniforms before being ushered into another dressing room, where hockey's Holy Grail stood shining brightly on a table.

Their expressions at first were mostly of bewilderment. What was the Stanley Cup doing in the dressing room, and what were the girls supposed to do? Touch it? Stand around, smile and bask in its glow?

It was the latter at first. But, at the encouragement of their coach, the girls quickly warmed up to the cup, putting their hands on it, looking at the names and teams that line its silver circumference.

Some kissed it, others declined. Family members, including young siblings, filtered into the room and shot photos and video as their daughters beamed.

While the youngsters celebrated and then headed out to the ice for a team photo with the cup, the ongoing labour dispute between the NHL and its players' association continued. There is a chance that no NHL players will get to hoist the chalice this season.

"The hockey at the grassroots level is what it's all about," said the Hickling.

"I wouldn't take sides on the NHL dispute, but when you see this, it really reminds you of what the game's all about."

Health-science union to end strikes

B.C.'s health-science professionals have called off upcoming rotating strikes after getting a new contract proposal from the government over the weekend, but the union says it's still not taking the deal.

Workers, including those who conduct X-rays, CT scans, MRIs, ultrasound, nuclear medicine and other imaging procedures, had walked off the job last week, and planned to reduce further hospital lab services as of midnight Sunday.

However, the Health Science Professionals Bargaining Association said Sunday it was changing tack after the province tabled a wage increase and concessions just before midnight Saturday.

Association president Reid Johnson described the new proposal as "so far off the mark."

He believes the government is trying to provoke members into escalating job action, in order to gain an excuse to recall the legislature and impose a collective agreement.

"We are not going to go down that road," he said in a release. "Our dispute is not with the people who need those services. It is with a government that refuses to negotiate a fair and reasonable agreement for essential members of the modern health-care team."

The union and employer held three around-the-clock days of talks leading up to the proposal. It adds up to a general wage increase of 1.4 per cent over two years, with some workers facing wage rollbacks, Johnson said.

Rotating strikes last week led to the cancellation of about 3,000 medical procedures. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Middle East. Young woman says both sides in conflict just want to live in peace

AMANDA THORSTEINSSON
For Metro in Winnipeg

For Emma Bergen, 19, the hardest part of visiting a Palestinian refugee camp is seeing the bullet holes piercing the walls and doors of the homes of the young children with whom she works.

"It didn't occur to me that anyone would shoot at a family's home," said Bergen. "It's disturbing to know the children and their families have lived through house invasions and violence, and to see proof of it permanently in their doors and walls.

"It shocks me, because if someone can do this to a family's home, where does it end?"

About a month after graduating from Westgate Mennonite Collegiate in Winnipeg this past June, she moved with her family to Jerusalem.

Twice a week, Bergen leaves Jerusalem for Aida camp — a United Nations refugee camp in Bethlehem home to about 4,700 people squeezed into less than a square kilometre.

The camp has just one food-distribution centre, no health centres, and a single school. With no streetlights and sporadic electricity, refugees spend their nights in the dark.

But for Bergen, a children's centre within the camp is a place she has found joy and acceptance.

"I bring supplies like chalk, pastels, pencil crayons and paint, and together with the children, we colour, draw and trace.

"I love to be in the atmosphere where the children can be children," she said. "I feel accepted by them, and it shows in the way they pull me over to their parents and introduce me in Arabic."

The children are third- and fourth-generation refugees who have never known life outside the camp. Israelis have settled land in the West Bank that the Palestinians claim as theirs.

But Bergen hasn't witnessed bitterness or hate in the children with whom she works.

"The children are joyful and full of acceptance. They love to play and make friends," she said.

The children's centre where Bergen volunteers is the product of Palestinian parents who realized that refugee-camp life was stealing away childhood from their young ones.

One thing that helps Bergen cope with what she witnesses in the camp is talking about her experiences with people on both sides of the fighting.

"There are a lot of Israelis who want a peaceful end to the conflict too," she said.

"I'm not even in this situation, and it gets me so angry. But they continue to strive for peace, and it's inspiring."

Emma Bergen, centre, at the children's centre in a Palestinian refugee camp, where she volunteers twice a week. HANDOUT/METRO

Quoted

"I've never heard a Palestinian person say they want to kick Israel off their land. They want to live together in peace."

Emma Bergen, 19, who recently moved to Jerusalem with her family

Commitment key to bridge West Bank barrier

Emma Bergen stands with Salah Ajarma, a founder of the children's centre, at the entrance to the refugee camp. HANDOUT/METRO

Joanna and Dan Bergen moved with their two daughters from Wolseley to Jerusalem to work with Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) in July. They have committed to stay for a three-year term.

The couple oversees MCC's peace-building programs between Israeli and Palestinian people and poverty-reduction programs in Gaza and the West Bank.

Dan is on leave from teaching high school in the Winnipeg School Division and Joanna previously worked as MCC's HIV-AIDS program co-ordinator.

The recent surge in violent conflict between Hamas and Israel hasn't made them regret their decision to move.

AMANDA THORSTEINSSON/FOR METRO

Hot zone

"The reality of working in Israel/Palestine is that things can 'flare up' at any time, and we knew that going in," said Joanna Bergen. "We don't feel any differently now than when we first agreed to live and work here."

All along the watchtower

Drawing the line

While there's joy and laughter in the children's centre, more menacing things reveal themselves.

"Sometimes when I ask the children to draw something, they draw the wall," said Emma Bergen.

The wall refers to the 670-kilometre-long barrier Israel began constructing in 2002 in and around the occupied West Bank.

The Israeli government said the wall is necessary to protect its citizens from Palestinian militants.

Palestinian friends tell Bergen the wall cuts them off from their farmland, water sources and family members.

It's something Bergen sees every day when she's at the camp. The wall, with a military watchtower overhead — is right outside the children's centre.

"You walk by and you know that you're being watched. You know someone is always looking down on you, and they think of you as a threat," she said.

"It feels demeaning."

AMANDA THORSTEINSSON/FOR METRO

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Mandela in hospital as his party faces leadership crisis

Former South African President Nelson Mandela leaves a chapel after attending the funeral of his great-granddaughter in Johannesburg in 2010. South African President Jacob Zuma says that Mandela has been admitted to hospital in Pretoria to undergo tests. SIPHIWE SIBEKO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Fighting spirit. Former South African president, 94, has battled tuberculosis, prostate cancer

Inside a Catholic church that once served as a major rallying point for anti-apartheid activists, the image of a grey-suited Nelson Mandela appears in a stained-glass window that also features angels and the cross.

Worshippers here prayed Sunday for the hospitalized 94-year-old former president, who remains almost a secular saint and a father figure to many in South Africa, a nation of 50 million people that has Africa's top economy.

Mandela's admission to the hospital this weekend for unspecified medical tests sparked screaming newspaper headlines and ripples of fear in the public that the frail leader is fading further away.

And as his African National Congress political party stands ready to pick its leader, who likely will be the nation's next president, some believe governing party politicians have abandoned Mandela's integrity and magnanimity in a seemingly unending string of corruption scandals. That leaves many wondering who can lead the country the way the ailing Mandela once did.

On Saturday, the office of President Jacob Zuma announced Mandela had been admitted to a Pretoria hospital for medical tests and care that was "consistent for his age." Zuma visited Mandela on Sunday morning at the hospital and found the former leader to be "comfortable and in good care," presidential spokesman Mac Maharaj said in a statement. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Leading by example

"When you have someone that's willing to lead by example like he did, it makes things easier for people to follow."

Church-goer Thabile Manana

Pipeline. Docs show review was influenced by oil industry: Greenpeace

A review of pipeline safety commissioned by the Alberta government after a series of high-profile accidents was heavily influenced by industry and designed more to quiet public concern than improve the system, say Greenpeace campaigners.

They say documents obtained under Freedom of Information legislation suggest the terms of the review were OK'd in advance by pipeline company officials.

"There's a difference between talking to industry and asking for their approval," said Greenpeace energy spokesman Keith Stewart. "It looks like industry got to write the terms for this review."

But Energy Minister Ken Hughes said a meeting held between department staff and a broad array of pipeline industry representatives before the review was announced was to let them know he meant business.

"I called the meeting to convey a strong sense of urgency and a strong sense of reflection and investigation," said Hughes.

The report is expected later this month. No public input process has been determined, Hughes said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Oil spills

The Alberta government asked for the technical safety review last summer following three pipeline-related spills.

- **Red Deer River.** In one of those spills, a Plains Midstream Canada pipeline leaked about 475,000 litres of oil into the Red Deer River, a major drinking water source for central Alberta.

Public servants. Tony Clement doesn't want Christmas to be 'Grinched'

Treasury Board president Tony Clement says public servants want to be in the Christmas or Hanukkah spirit this time of year and should not feel they're offending anyone by decorating their offices with a little holiday cheer.

"Our government will not allow the Christmas spirit to be Grinched," he said in the statement.

What prompted the statement, he said, was last year's "confusion" after Service Canada advised its workers in Quebec not to decorate offices in public display. Human Resources Minister Diane Finley swiftly reversed that directive.

As for his own office, he said you'll find some Christmas cards and a couple of "Santa things" on his desk. He also made sure to mention his "Tony's 12 Ties of Christmas" poll on his website before the interview ended.

JOE LOFARO/METRO IN OTTAWA

Recurring illness

Chavez in Cuba for cancer treatment

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez was heading back to Cuba on Sunday for more cancer surgery after announcing that the illness returned despite two previous operations, Chemotherapy and radiation treatment.

Chavez acknowledged the seriousness of his health situation in a televised address Saturday night, saying for the first time that if he suffers complications, Vice-President Nicolas Maduro should be elected as Venezuela's leader to continue his socialist movement.

Hugo Chavez THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The 58-year-old president is still scheduled to be sworn in for a new six-year term Jan. 10. He has been in office for nearly 14 years, since 1999.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Manitoba hogs. Chief vet to review footage of inhumane pig treatment

The office of Manitoba's chief veterinarian says it has received and will review footage of treatment of pigs at a hog farm that has sparked accusations of animal abuse.

Animal Health and Welfare Manager Terry Whiting says video footage taken at a Puratone Corp. pig farm in Arborg, Man., was received by the office Friday, but couldn't comment whether an investigation has been launched.

The footage shows pigs bleeding in metal cages from open wounds, pregnant pigs with distended, inflamed bellies and piglets being slammed down on the floor by staff.

The video was released online and to CTV's W5 by animal rights group Mercy For Animals Canada, which says it was shot by an undercover investigator this year.

Neither Puratone or Maple Leaf Foods Inc., which bought Puratone last month, were immediately available for comment Sunday.

But Puratone Chief Executive Officer Ray Hildebrand provided a statement to W5 saying the company has launched an investigation.

"We are disturbed by some of the images shown in this video, which do not reflect our principles or our animal welfare policy and operating procedures," said the statement, posted on CTV's website. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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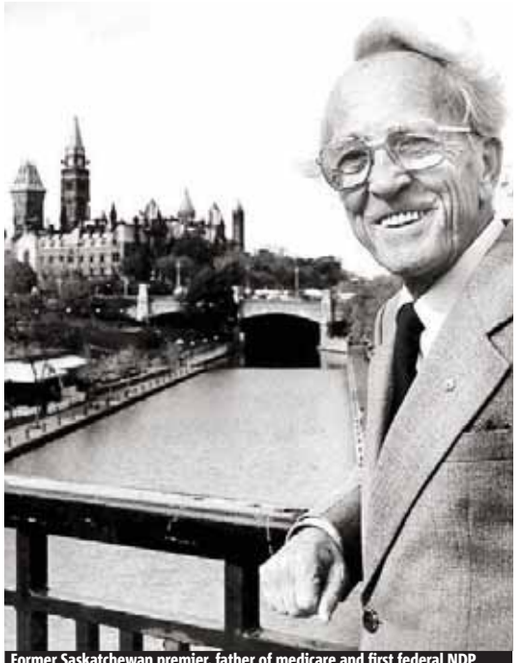
Top court asked to decide on releasing Douglas file



Former Saskatchewan premier, father of medicare and first federal NDP leader Tommy Douglas in Ottawa in 1983. CHRIS SCHWARZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tommy Douglas.
Should security forever trump our right to see historic documents?

The Supreme Court of Canada is being asked to settle a seven-year battle to lift the shroud of secrecy over a decades-old intelligence dossier on socialist trailblazer Tommy Douglas.

Jim Bronskill, a reporter with The Canadian Press, is seeking leave to appeal the case to the country's highest court. At stake is more than simply gaining access to the intelligence file compiled on Douglas, according to Bronskill's lawyer.

In essence, the top court is being asked to be the final arbiter on whether national security should trump the public's right to see historical documents.

"It is about the balance between history and security and when national security information can and should be withheld," Paul Champ said in an interview. "Our simple position is that information that's gathered for intelligence or national security should not be hidden away from Canadians for all time." So far only about 700 pages of the 1,142 page file have been made public, many heavily censored. The Mounties spied on Douglas from the late 1930s to shortly before his death in 1986. They attended his speeches and protests, analysed his writings, infiltrated private meetings and eavesdropped on conversations.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Spied on for five decades

Security services seemed particularly interested in Douglas's links to the peace movement and the Communist party.

- They reported on his comments concerning the U.S. civil rights movement, apartheid, labour issues and more.

Just monkeying around. Stylish primate charms Toronto Ikea shoppers

Even primates can't seem to resist a good bargain.

A Toronto Ikea store attracted an unusual customer Sunday afternoon, when a tiny monkey dressed in a fitted faux shearling coat and diapers appeared in the store's upper parking garage around 2 p.m.

"It was just running around screaming," said shopper Bronwyn Page. "There was a crowd of us around it and it seemed really scared and agitated."

Security guards at the Ikea eventually cornered the animal in the elevator vestibule and called police. Animal Services soon arrived at the store to pick up the stylish bargain-hunter. The diminutive shopper never made it into the store, said manager Alvaro Carmona.

Animal Services identified the monkey as a rhesus macaque, an Asian species that is prohibited in Ontario.

The owner of the primate turned himself in to Animal Services just after 5 p.m. He was charged with owning a prohibited animal, an offence that carries a $200 fine.

Twitter pic of the monkey in Ikea's parking garage in Toronto on Sunday. TWITTER

The seven-month-old monkey somehow managed to escape his owner's car in the Ikea parking lot, said animal control officer David Behan.

Behan said the owner was cooperative in signing over the primate to Animal Services. The man's name has not been released.

As for the half-metre tall simian, he is in good health and will likely be transferred to a sanctuary. "The monkey was in a bit of shock, but it's calmed down now that we've been feeding it some grapes," an animal services representative said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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A protester jumps as Egyptian army soldiers stand guard in front of the presidential palace in Cairo, Sunday. Egypt's liberal opposition called for more protests, seeking to keep up the momentum of its street campaign after the president made a concession overnight, but refused its main demand to rescind a draft constitution going to a referendum. HASSAN AMMAR/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Egyptian opposition urges more protests against referendum

Divided country. Draft charter fails to outlaw gender discrimination, and has restrictive clauses on freedom of expression

Egypt's opposition said Sunday it will keep up protests against a referendum on a disputed draft constitution, but stopped short of advocating either a boycott or a "no" vote less than a week before the ballot.

The opposition was still pushing for Islamist President Mohammed Morsi to cancel the Dec. 15 referendum, saying they reject the process entirely and refuse to call it legitimate.

The referendum over a disputed draft constitution has deeply polarized Egypt and sparked some of the bloodiest clashes between Morsi supporters and opponents since he came to power in June.

As a concession to his opponents, he rescinded decrees he issued last month granting him almost unrestricted powers, giving himself and the panel that drafted the constitution immunity from judicial oversight.

The decrees sparked mass protests. Supporters said they were issued initially to protect the disputed constitution from numerous court challenges.

Rushing the approval of the constitution in a late-night session in the panel further inflamed those who claim Morsi and his Islamist allies, including the Muslim Brotherhood, are monopolizing power and trying to force their agenda into practice.

The opposition sent hundreds of thousands of protesters into the streets in unprecedented mass rallies for the largely secular groups, which led the popular uprising last year that toppled President Hosni Mubarak.

This prompted protests by Morsi supporters and sparked bouts of street battles that left at least six people dead and hundreds wounded.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shariah law

The draft charter was adopted despite a last-minute walkout by liberal and Christian members of the Constituent Assembly. The document would open the door to Egypt's most extensive implementation of Shariah, or Islamic, law, enshrining a say for Muslim clerics in legislation, making civil rights subordinate to Shariah and broadly allowing the state to protect "ethics and morals."

Statehood fallout

Abbas appeals to allies for bailout

The Palestinian president is urging Arab nations to provide major financial assistance to cover a new monthly $100 million budgetary shortfall after UN recognition of Palestinian claims to statehood — the result of a punitive Israeli measure. The appeal by Mahmoud Abbas reflects the severe financial fallout from last month's landmark vote in the UN. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

International pressure

North Korea may stall rocket launch

North Korea could postpone the controversial launch of a long-range rocket that had been slated for liftoff as early as this week, state media said Sunday, as international pressure on Pyongyang to cancel the provocative move intensified.

Pyongyang calls the launch a peaceful bid to send an observational satellite into space — its second attempt this year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Typhoon's death toll rises as Filipinos pick up the pieces

Search and rescue. After the storm slammed into the Philippines, hundreds are reported killed, many still missing

Quoted

"We have declared them missing. Maybe they are still alive."

Benito Ramos, civil defence chief, on whether missing fishermen are still alive.

The number of people missing after a typhoon devastated parts of the southern Philippines jumped to nearly 900 after families and fishing companies reported losing contact with more than 300 fishermen at sea, officials said Sunday.

The fishermen from southern General Santos city and nearby Sarangani province left a few days before Typhoon Bopha hit the main southern island of Mindanao on Tuesday, triggering flash floods that killed more than 600, Civil Defence chief Benito Ramos said.

Ramos said the fishermen were headed to the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea and to the Pacific Ocean. He said there has been no contact from them for a week.

"We have declared them missing," he said. "Maybe they are still alive."

Ramos said they may have sought shelter on the many small islands in the Spratlys and the Celebes Sea, and lost battery power and have not been able to call.

He said the coast guard, navy and fishing vessels have launched a search.

After slamming into the southern Philippines, the typhoon moved out to sea but then veered back toward the country's northwest on Saturday, prompting worries of more devastation. As of late Sunday, however, it had begun to dissipate and weaken into a low pressure area as it moved farther into the South China Sea, about 105 kilometres west of the Philippines' Ilocos Norte province.

Rescuers continued searching for bodies or signs of life under tons of fallen trees and boulders in the worst-hit town of New Bataan, where rocks, mud and other rubble destroyed landmarks, making it doubly difficult to search places where houses once stood. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Residents affected by Typhoon Bopha crowd around as relief goods are distributed at New Bataan township, Compostela Valley, in the southern Philippines Sunday.
BULLIT MARQUEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Radioactive materials being sold: Georgian officials

An undated photo from the Georgia Interior Ministry shows part of a seizure of radioactive substances. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the gritty side of this casino resort town near the Turkish border, three men in a hotel suite gathered in secret to talk about a deal for radioactive material.

The Georgian seller offered cesium, a byproduct of nuclear reactors that terrorists can use to arm a dirty bomb with the power to kill. But one of the Turkish men, wearing a suit and casually smoking a cigarette, made clear he was after something even more dangerous: Uranium, the material for a nuclear bomb.

The would-be buyers agreed to take a photo of the four cylinders and see if their boss in Turkey was interested. They did not know police were watching through a hidden camera. As they got up to leave, the police rushed in and arrested the men, according to Georgian officials, who were present.

The encounter, which took place in April, reflected a fear shared by U.S. and Georgian officials: Despite years of effort and hundreds of millions of dollars spent in the fight against the illicit sale of nuclear contraband, the black market remains active in the countries around the former Soviet Union. The radioactive materials, mostly left over from the Cold War, include nuclear bomb-grade uranium and plutonium, and dirty-bomb isotopes like cesium and iridium. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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DJs Mel Grieg and Michael Christian, who apologized for the prank on Tuesday, took down their Twitter accounts after they were bombarded by abusive comments. Rhys Holleran, CEO of Southern Cross Austereo seen here speaking to media in Melbourne Saturday, said the pair have been offered counselling and are off the air indefinitely. GETTY IMAGES

London police consider probe of radio station

Royal hoax fallout. DJs taken off the air indefinitely following death of nurse who took their prank call

The reverberations from the death of a nurse who accepted a hoax phone call about the ill Duchess of Cambridge spread through two countries Sunday, as Australian authorities said London police had contacted them about a possible investigation.

The Australian radio station behind the call also announced an immediate review of its broadcast practices after the debacle, which began with a prank call made Tuesday to the hospital where the former Kate Middleton was being treated for acute morning sickness.

The controversial prank took a dark twist three days later with the death of nurse Jacintha Saldanha, a 46-year-old mother of two, who was duped by the DJs despite their Australian accents. The death has sparked an angry backlash against the two DJs.

After an emergency meeting Sunday, Max Moore-Wilton, chairman of Southern Cross Austereo which owns the 2DayFM radio station, said in a letter to the hospital's chairman that the company will co-operate with any investigation.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thrives on controversy

2DayFM radio station has a history of controversy.

- It once aired a segment in which a 14-year-old girl revealed that she had been raped.
- It also ran Heartless Hotline shows in which disadvantaged people were offered a prize that could be taken away from them by listeners.

Child pornography

Arrests in Spain linked to Toronto

Spanish police have arrested 28 people and charged 10 others in connection with an international child pornography network allegedly headquartered in Toronto.

DVDs sold though the network via three websites have been distributed to 94 countries, the Spanish Ministry of the Interior said. It said Interpol passed on information from Toronto police about a network selling child pornography videos based in Toronto that had been in operation since 2004.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Balkans. Blizzards leave 6 dead, chaos on roads

Freezing temperatures and heavy snowfall have killed at least six people and caused travel chaos across the Balkans, with rescue teams struggling to reach passengers stranded in buses and cars in Serbia on Sunday. Officials said four people died in Croatia and two in Serbia.

A woman gave birth to a baby in a stranded truck on her way to a hospital, and named her Snezana, or "Snow White" in Serbian.

By late afternoon, 660 people, including 30 children, were evacuated from stranded vehicles, and army tanks were used to remove heavy trucks that skidded and blocked highways.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A woman waits at a bus stop in Belgrade, Serbia, Sunday as freezing temperatures and heavy snowfall caused chaos across the Balkans. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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War-crimes tribunal accuses Economist of hacking judge

Bangladesh. Inquiry asks news magazine to explain how it obtained emails and Skype discussions

Saturday's issue of The Economist
METRO

A Bangladesh war-crimes tribunal has accused the British magazine The Economist of hacking the computer of its presiding judge to record conversations and read emails he exchanged with a lawyer.

The magazine did not directly address the charges, but said it was in possession of conversations and documents that raised serious questions about the workings of the tribunal.

The tribunal is trying 10 opposition politicians on charges of arson, rape and other atrocities committed during the country's 1971 war of independence from Pakistan.

Bangladesh says that during the war, Pakistani troops, aided by their local collaborators, killed three million people and raped about 200,000 women.

In an order passed last week, the tribunal accused The Economist of computer hacking and asked it to explain how it got emails and heard Skype conversations between Presiding Judge Mohammed Nizamul Huq and Ahmed Ziauddin, a lawyer of Bangladeshi origin living in Brussels, Belgium.

In an article published Saturday, The Economist said it has heard 17 hours of recorded telephone conversations and seen over 230 emails between Huq and Ziauddin.

"These emails, if genuine, would indeed raise questions about the working of the court and we are bound to investigate them as fully as we can," the article said.

The Economist rejected the tribunal's demand that the emails and recorded conversations be returned to it without being published.

"This material is confidential and we are bound by law and the British press's Code of Conduct not to reveal such information except in matters of the most serious public interest. We did not solicit the material, nor pay for it, nor commit ourselves to publish it," it said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Holiday rush. Mail, parcel volumes hit peak this week

If you were thinking this is the week to finally mail out your Christmas cards or make a gift purchase online, you're not alone.

Canada Post expects Thursday will be its busiest day of the year. And FedEx is targeting Monday globally as its highest-volume day of 2012.

Canada Post estimates the holiday rush will see it deliver about one billion cards, letters and packages. Northwest of downtown Toronto, at the post office's largest parcel processing plant, workers are lining conveyor belts around the clock to handle the nonstop flood of holiday packages.

"In a daily basis at this time of year we're handling about 550,000 pieces a day, as we approach closer to Christmas we expect to be 700,000 pieces or more," said Randy Carroll, director of the plant's operations.

"In this facility itself we process at the rate of well over 40,000 pieces an hour."

While the bulk of Christmas mail will be flooding the system this week, there will be plenty more pouring in next week, he adds.

"We will see customers switch to (Xpresspost and priority courier service) and mail heavily all the way up to the 22nd of December," he says.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

A package is pulled from a conveyer to be loaded into a freight container for dispatch at a FedEx facility in Toronto on on Dec. 5. FedEx predicts that, globally, Monday will be its highest-volume day of 2012. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Wireless code of conduct

CRTC gets earful about 36-month cell contracts

Three-year contracts from cellphone companies should be banned, Canada's telecom regulator has been told in submissions to an online consultation.

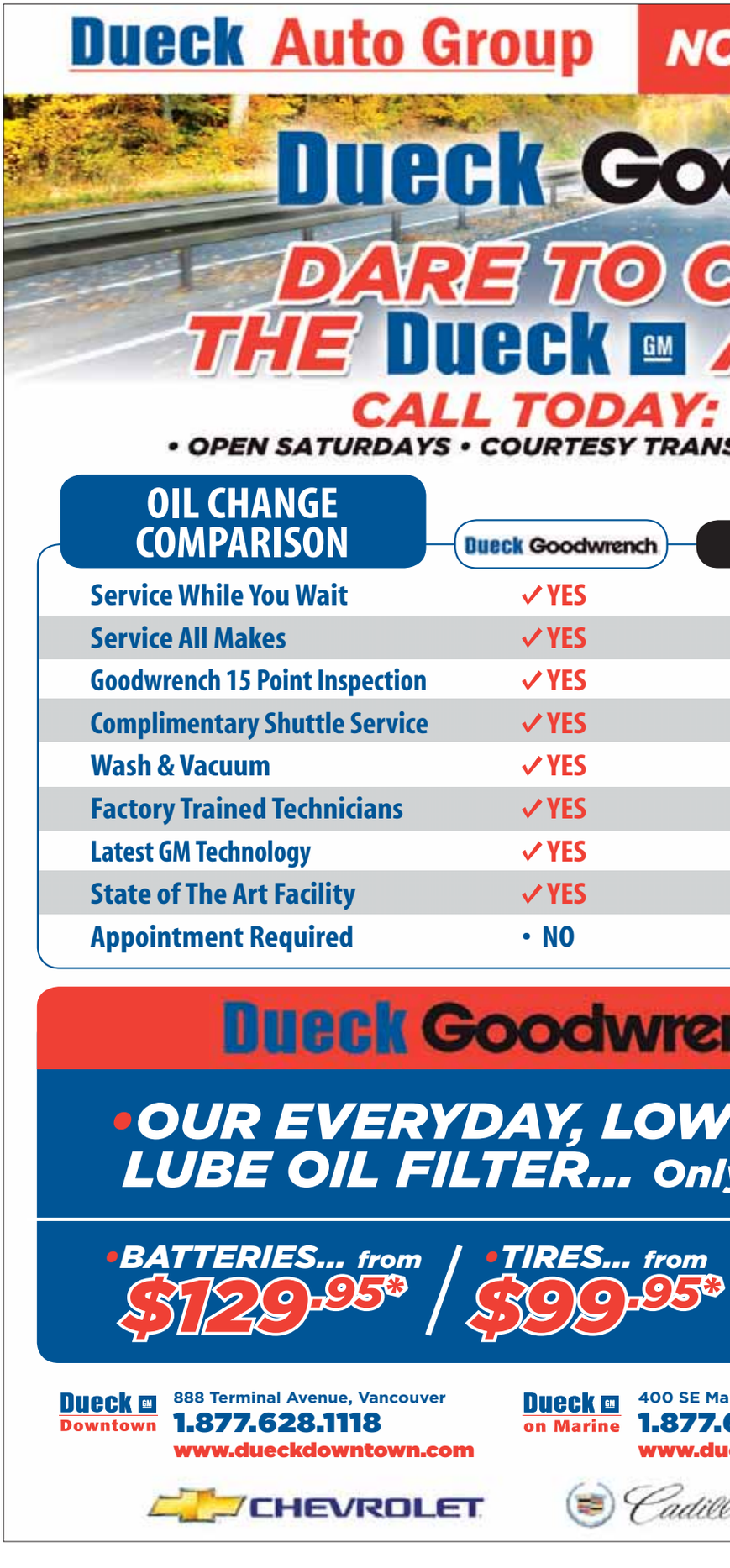
Hundreds of people submitted their opinions to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission about a proposed code of conduct for the country's wireless industry. The overwhelming majority who wrote to the CRTC over the two-week online consultation period voiced concerns about being "held hostage" by 36-month contracts.

"Get rid of the 36 months contract!!!," said one person on the CRTC's online forum. "It first started with 12 months, then 24 months, now the standard is 36 months, which is ridiculous!"

Another person wrote: "CRTC, please get rid of the 3 year contract. Canada will love you for this." Those submitting opinions and suggestions to the forum were not required to post their names.

The first round of consultations also heard several complaints about a lack of competition in the industry.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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GMC BUICK

The power of Christmas

People gather to look at Christmas lights that adorn a house in Melksham, England, on Saturday. The lights have returned to the town after a two-year absence and have raised thousands of pounds for charity. The display, which is worth about $50,000, is thought to involve more than 100,000 bulbs. It takes a team of electricians five weeks to complete, and needs an up-rated electricity supply installed to cope with the additional power requirements. Inset, people react to a flurry of flakes generated by a snow machine outside the display. MATT CARDY/GETTY IMAGES

Rail travel

Tory MPs lobby for communities hit by VIA Rail's service cuts

Backbench Tory MPs appear to be in a losing, behind-the-scenes struggle over cuts at VIA Rail, leaving some communities scrambling for new transit options.

The service reductions have hit smaller towns and cities, particularly in the Maritimes and southwestern Ontario, the hardest. It came as cold comfort to some communities last week when VIA announced increased service in the Quebec City-Montreal-Ottawa-Toronto corridor.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Washington, D.C.

Obama, Boehner hold discussions about 'fiscal cliff'

U.S. President Barack Obama and Republican House Speaker John Boehner met Sunday at the White House to discuss the ongoing negotiations to avert the impending "fiscal cliff," as a growing number of Republicans in Congress appear to be moving toward acceptance of Obama's demand that tax rates go up on the wealthy.

It was the first meeting between just the two leaders since Nov. 6. Details of their conversation will not be released, their spokesmen said.

The meeting comes as the White House and Congress try to break an impasse over finding a way to stop a combination of automatic tax increases and spending cuts scheduled to kick in at the beginning of next year.

Obama has been pushing higher tax rates on the wealthiest Americans as one way to reduce the deficit — a position Boehner and other House Republicans have been steadfastly against.

One GOP senator said Sunday that Senate Republicans would probably agree to higher tax rates on the wealthiest Americans if it meant getting a chance to overhaul entitlement programs like Medicare and Social Security. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paying a visit to McAfee

Software company founder John McAfee's girlfriend Sam leaves the detention immigration centre where he is being held in Guatemala City on Sunday. McAfee, who fled Belize, was denied political asylum in Guatemala on Thursday and police in Belize said they expected him to be flown back soon for questioning about the killing of a fellow American expatriate. MOISES CASTILLO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAREFUL WHEN CROSSING OVER TO THE DARK SIDE

URBAN COMPASS
Paul Sullivan
vancouver@metronews.ca

OK, let's start with something we can all agree on.

When it's a dark and stormy night, it's tough to see anything out there.

And that's probably that in terms of agreement. Otherwise, as the number of road accidents involving pedestrians, cyclists and motorists climbs during the darkest time of the year, it's a divided city.

On one side of the divide, you have motorists who say it's difficult to see people through rain-obscured windshields, especially if the people are dressed like black holes and insist on crossing the street without looking both ways, probably because they're texting on their damned devices.

On the other, you have the pedestrians and cyclists, who seem to think that whatever their transgressions, they don't deserve to get run over. And they are getting run over: the Insurance Coporation of British Columbia (ICBC) says the average number of collisions causing injury to pedestrians doubles to 390 in winter from 195 in summer across B.C.

Perils of putting a foot wrong

ICBC says the average number of collisions causing injury to pedestrians doubles to 390 in winter from 195 in summer across B.C.

Many of us have been on both sides of the divide depending on the time of day. In one day, I'll: Run around in the dark wearing dark clothing, cycle in twilight without a light, and just avoid running over some guy in dark clothing texting as he jaywalks.

I recently bought a headlamp, and it was great until one morning on the seawall some guy yelled at me as he ran by to "turn off that f***ing headlamp, you a******!"

How rude.

That has to be a first: Being a victim of seawall rage at 6:25 in the morning. He should be grateful that we avoided a head-on collision. Still, I now undergo this elaborate contortionist act when my headlamp and I pass some obscure figure on the seawall. I never can tell if it's going to be the return of the Running Troll.

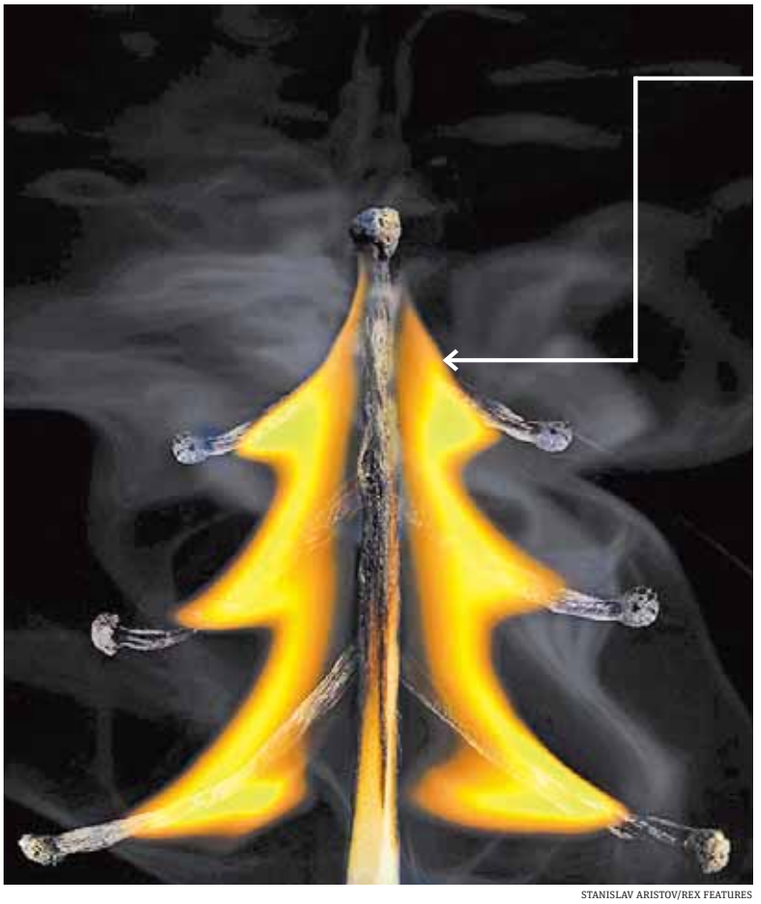
I guess there's no pleasing some people, and that's the disturbing thing about this issue. For some, it's more an opportunity to gripe about all those other idiots than ask what they can do to keep themselves from becoming seasonally adjusted.

Clearly, the onus is on the pedestrian to watch out. Your average mid-sized car weighs about 1,600 kilograms, while your average dark-clad pedestrian weighs 80. That car has a top speed of 220 kilometres an hour; that pedestrian goes 10, especially if he's trying to get across the street to avoid getting run over.

Odds favour the car. Of course, there's a special circle in hell reserved for people who are texting as they sail through crosswalks in their cars while it's raining. "I can't see a thing. LOL."

The bottom line: Be careful out there. And resist making a point; no matter how good, it may be the last one you ever make.

The Christmas tree is on fire!



STANISLAV ARISTOV/REX FEATURES

Characteristics

Art produces 'very freakish forms'

For Aristov, the key characteristic of his match art is its unexpected shapes and composition, despite its use of a rather ordinary object.

"Matches, of course, are quite a usual object, but it turned out (they) can be presented in very unusual ways," the artist said.

"Fire, as well as smoke, sometimes swirls in very freakish forms, which bring very interesting associations." METRO

Match art in numbers

200

is the amount of camera shots Aristov sometimes requires in order to capture the perfect match art composition. Aristov's amazing images include a smoky butterfly, a dangling spider, crawling lizard and a burning heart.

Match art photography

This art is literally smoking hot

Some bright spark has set the art world alight and created this festive image using spent matches and fire.

Stanislav Aristov, 30, makes miniature sculptures like this one by bending the matches into the desired shape while they are burning and then, using a macro lens and studio flash, he takes the photograph. METRO

Artist's viewpoint

"There is burnt for the past, the smoke of memories left and the untouched part of the match the future. The fire is the life."

Stanislav Aristov, 30, IT specialist and part-time artist from Ekaterinburg, Russia

Accidental beginnings

How he had his eureka moment

Like many ingenious creations, Aristov's art came about by accident. Unable to come up with an idea, Aristov struck a match before noticing the incredible patterns formed in the carbon of the used wood — and so match art was born.

"It was while I was watching the match trying to think of something that I began to think of how it represents life," Aristov said. METRO

Facing extinction

Partridges in pear trees tough to find in Britain these days

Britain's Royal Society for Protection of Birds says the two icons of the Twelve Days of Christmas — grey partridges and turtledoves — are in alarming decline. It said authorities should act to prevent them from becoming just distant memories within the famed Christmas song.

The society says the number of partridges have dropped 30 per cent. Turtledoves are even worse off — with a 60 per cent decline in numbers. The society warns, at this rate, the turtledove will face extinction by the middle of the next decade.

Society spokesman Grahame Madge said that budget cuts by the British government and the European Union threaten farm programs that support wildlife like the birds. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Metropolitan Panel

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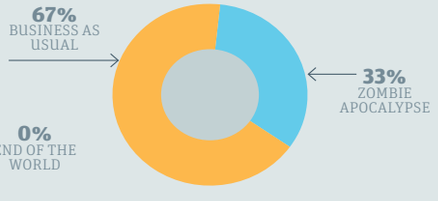
What's your prediction for Dec. 21, 2012?



Twitter

@supervancouver: The Last Chance Christmas Craft Fair is on Dec 23 at the Croatian Cultural Centre in #Vancouver http://ow.ly/fWxnt

@dawn_chubai: Looking forward to performing with @DalRichards for the Variety Special Needs Adult Christmas Party tonight! A fun and appreciative crowd!

@rodmickleburgh: Meggs/Mickleburgh book, Art of the Impossible, on Barrett govt., continues to rank third on Amazon's Canadian military bestseller list..huh?

@streetcrow: Pizza crust #TattoosIWant

@VancouverPD: Hazardous situation call - man dancing in middle of alley in southeast Vancouver and refusing to move for cars #twoyeartweets [lk]

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Fewer members presents fewer problems for rising Japandroids

Celebration Rock.
Electronic duo trying to adapt to playing bigger venues after successful new album

LUKE O'NEIL
Metro World News in Boston

Japandroids Dave Prowse and Brian King. HANDOUT

There's no question that electronic dance music has been the primary driving force in music for the past few years.

We would never be so misguided to set up some sort of oppositional binary between DJ culture and traditional rock music (because obviously both can exist peacefully). But if we had to, there's no question which band would go as the first pick in our hypothetical fantasy music draft: Japandroids.

The sound on their acclaimed second record, Celebration Rock, is the Platonic ideal of shouted basement-show punk vehemence, best exemplified by song-of-the-year candidate, The House That Heaven Built.

The Vancouver band's success has found them graduating from the smaller clubs from which their stage-dives and bro-hugs aesthetic was born into much larger rooms, on an exhaustive tour that will bring them for the first time to Australia, Korea and, of course, Japan.

"I feel like we live on the road," drummer and vocalist Dave Prowse says from Tampa, Fla.

"We just tend to tour pretty hard, and not really take a lot of breaks. ... I think because we were kind of a struggling local band for two years, as soon as we got the opportunity to tour and see a lot of places, we had a hard time saying no to anything."

In the early days, working as a duo made that sort of schedule a lot more feasible, he says.

"When we first started, it was us in a Ford explorer. It was a lot easier to make that work with two people. For a variety of reasons, being a two-piece makes logistics easier. Obviously the money, and the fact that there's only one other person you have to come to an agreement with. In a six-piece, it's probably harder to convince six people to go on (the) road for two years."

That doesn't mean that he and guitarist Brian King don't still have their share of disagreements, but having known each other for so long, Prowse says, they're on the same page about most things.

"The thing about being in a two-piece, you can't put anything to a vote, so if you disagree about something, you just have to figure it out. We have pretty similar ideas about lots of kind of trickier situations that bands have to make, with respect to things like licensing music for advertisements or something like that, which is a big thing for a lot of bands. But neither of us are interested in doing that, so it's easy to say no to that. ... Obviously, there are certain moments where we disagree, (but it's) usually about small stuff rather than big stuff, which is probably the reason we're still a band after seven years."

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From horror to comedy, the holidays give us plenty of time to get movie-happy

Preview. Metro looks at some of the upcoming flicks hitting theatres near you

UPCOMING COMEDIES

All that holiday family time will leave most of us in need of a few good laughs.

The Guilt Trip
Dec. 19 — This road trip movie starring Seth Rogen and Barbra Streisand aims to plumb the treasure trove of jokes to be made about a mother and son going on a road trip across the country.

This is 40
Dec. 21 — As the "sort of sequel" to 2007's Knocked Up, this Judd Apatow film follows committed couple Debbie and Pete (Leslie Mann and Paul Rudd) as they struggle with aging and each other.

The Guilt Trip HANDOUT

Quartet
Jan. 11 (limited) — Dustin Hoffman directs this comedy about a British retirement home for opera singers and the longtime resident who reunites with a lost love. Pretty much, it's Best Exotic Marigold Quartet.

A Haunted House
Jan. 11 — Marlon Wayans, Cedric the Entertainer and Nick Swardson finally give Paranormal Activity and all those exorcist movies the send-up they deserve.

SCI-FI, HORROR, ACTION

Despite being the season for high-concept movies, the horror and action genres have plenty to offer this winter.

Texas Chainsaw 3D
Jan. 4 — It's yet another remake of the classic horror flick, but this time the story follows a young woman who journeys to Texas to gather her inheritance, which happens to be in the home of Leatherface.

Mama
Jan. 18 — Annabel and Lucas, a young couple, must raise his two young nieces after being left to fend for themselves by their late parents. They soon discover the girls' dark past, which includes a relentless spirit called Mama.

The Last Exorcism 2: The Beginning of the End
March 1 — If you can get past the film's misleading predecessor, the sequel picks up somewhere down the track as Nell Sweetzer attempts to move on from the past, but is confronted by the sinister force that previously possessed her.

This is 40, starring Paul Rudd and Leslie Mann. HANDOUT

Gangster Squad
Jan. 11 — If Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone aren't enough to get you interested, this film looks set to be one of the best winter releases. The action flick follows the LAPD's struggle with the East Coast Mafia during the '40s and '50s.

Parker
Jan. 25 — Jason Statham steps back into his signature role as an action hero, but this time he plays a thief who forms an alliance with an unlikely friend (Jennifer Lopez) to get revenge on his gang.

Hansel and Gretel Witch Hunters
Jan. 25 — The name pretty much sums it up. The flick is a modern take on the classic fairy tale in which we see Hansel and Gretel on a pursuit for vengeance against the witches who tortured them as children.

Parker HANDOUT

FILMS LIKELY TO SCORE A GOLDEN STATUETTE

1. Killing Them Softly
Now playing — Brad Pitt stars in this dark underworld thriller about a pair of small-time crooks that rob a mobster card game. Soon an enforcer (Pitt) is sent in to make sure that debts are properly paid.

2. Hyde Park on Hudson
Now playing (limited) — Bill Murray, Laura Linney and Olivia Williams star in this depiction of the affair between FDR and his distant cousin, Margaret Stuckley, during the landmark visit of the first reigning British royals on American soil.

3. Amour
Dec. 19 (limited) — The winner of the 2012 Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival has yet to leave anything but a stirring impression on those who have seen it. Austrian filmmaker Michael Haneke's depiction of an elderly couple facing their mortality guarantees a beautifully heart-rending experience.

4. Zero Dark Thirty
Dec. 19 (limited) — After her Oscar win for 2008's The Hurt Locker, Kathryn Bigelow presents another military drama in the Middle East, this time following the hunt and execution of Osama Bin Laden.

5. The Impossible
Dec. 21 (limited) — Naomi Watts and Ewan McGregor star in the true story of one family's struggle to survive the tsunami that struck the coast of Thailand in 2004.

6. Not Fade Away
Dec. 21 (limited) — The mastermind behind The Sopranos, David Chase, writes and directs this nostalgic drama about a fledgling rock band trying to make it big in 1960s New Jersey. And yes, James Gandolfini (formerly known as Tony Soprano) does make an appearance.

7. On the Road
Jan. 18 (limited) — This long-awaited adaptation of Jack Kerouac's beloved beatnik novel stars Garrett Hedlund, Kirsten Dunst and of course a topless-at-one-point Kristen Stewart as a bunch of roustabout rebels in the late '50s, trying to discover what it means to be free.

8. Django Unchained
Dec. 25 — Vigilante justice is the cornerstone of any Quentin Tarantino film, and his 2012 offering promises to deliver the obligatory amount of gratuitous bloodshed. Jamie Foxx plays a freed slave who is assisted in revenge by his mentor, played by Christoph Waltz.

Django Unchained HANDOUT

9. Les Miserables
Dec. 25 — Some Oscar wins are practically in the hands of director Tom Hooper already for his adaptation of the Broadway musical, originally penned as a novel by Victor Hugo. By recording the live singing performances of stars Russell Crowe, Hugh Jackman, Anne Hathaway and others, the film stands to break new ground for musical adaptations that eschew the cheese factor.

10. The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey
Dec. 14 — The first installment of Peter Jackson's latest Tolkien trilogy is sure to pick up at least a few technical awards for its daring method of shooting film at twice the speed of regular film (48 frames per second, as opposed to the traditional 24).

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The Bay: The first eco-horror movie

Movies. Oscar winner Barry Levinson has made the Paranormal Activity of environmental movies. Get ready to be scared by The Bay

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

On July 4, 2009, tiny monsters popped out of the Chesapeake Bay near Washington D.C. and horrifically killed innocent people, leaving them battered, bloodied and infected.

True story?

No, but new movie The Bay pretends it is.

The flick is filmed in found footage style à la The Blair Witch Project and Paranormal Activity.

Hidden inside is an environmental message: Our waters are toxic. Oscar-winner Barry Levinson created the film, leading us to ask:

A found footage movie seems a strange choice for an Oscar winner. What made you want to do it?
Well, I would not have thought to do a movie like this. It was an evolution. I was approached by the people in Maryland to do a documentary about the Chesapeake Bay because it's 40 per cent dead. I looked into it, I found out that PBS had done a documentary that was terrific, but ultimately nobody really responded or cared or thought that we ought to do something about this largest estuary in the U.S. that's 40 per cent dead, filled with a toxic soup. Then a couple of weeks later I thought, maybe what you need to do is if you took all the facts and you pulled it into a story ... and you create characters, maybe the facts will become more frightening to us.

Is that the movie equivalent of sneaking medication into someone's dessert?
The information becomes vital to the storytelling. It becomes

"I'll never swim in the bay again." Movie still of an infested patient. LIONSGATE

one and the same; it's connective that way. And so, I think it adds to the experience because it adds the credibility.

What are some of the conditions in the movie that come from those facts?
Well, take the drinking water. We know the filtration systems in the United States are basically D-rated. That's what they say, it met the standards. It's substandard, but it met the standards. We know our water quality is a D-minus. And we go, "Well that's good enough."

What about the monsters in the film?
They're really isopods and they do exist. They're not in the Chesapeake Bay, but they're in the Atlantic. In the scene where the oceanographer holds one up to the camera and says, "This is sea lice," that's not a CGI shot. That's a fish that has sea lice on it in South Carolina where we were filming.
We've got a lot of stuff that's got a reality base to it that makes it even scarier.

Are there any efforts now to correct the situation in the Chesapeake Bay?
They say there are efforts to fix it. You could correct the damage if you put a real effort forward. Now they're doing some work, so I won't say they're not doing anything. But they're not doing what you have to do. You've got to be in an emergency mode.
And I mean, it's all doable. You can correct it. It's just, "Do you have the will to want to do it or not?"

The Bay is on iTunes now.
www.thebay-movie.com

Julia Roberts as Erin. UNIVERSAL

The money behind Green Cinema

Hollywood is filled with activists behind a good cause, especially the environment. But the history of Green Cinema has had a spotty track record.

It often works best when the environmental message is inherent to the story, especially if the movie is based on actual events, like Erin Brockovich or last year's Big Miracle, about one Alaska town's efforts to free a family of whales. And a fictional movie can take its cues from real life, as in Richard Linklater's Fast Food Nation, about the horrors of McDonald's.

Hollywood triumphs when it mixes an eco message into mainstream entertainment, like James Cameron's Avatar (biggest movie ever), disaster flick The Day After Tomorrow (a smash) or Pixar's adorable Wall-E (made $520 million worldwide). This year, director Barry Levinson tries using a gore-filled horror movie, The Bay. Made for a small sum, it'll probably make back its money.

There's often no substitute for the truth, and eco-themed documentaries are a long and proud tradition. Famous ones include Al Gore's Oscar-winning An Inconvenient Truth and Waste Land, a Brazilian movie on making art from Earth's largest landfill.

Meanwhile, Gus Van Sant's Promised Land on controversial hydraulic drilling, or fracking, is out next month and in time for Oscar consideration. But will it be a hit or a flop? **NED EHRBAR**

Green heroes and zeroes

Hero

Gisele Bundchen

The Brazilian model was named the Best Green International Celebrity at last year's Green Awards, and since 2009 is UN Environment Goodwill Ambassador.

Hero

Daryl Hannah

The U.S. actress-activist has been arrested while at protests for eco groups. A vegan and the driver of a biodiesel car, Hannah records video blogs on sustainability.

Hero

Mark Ruffalo

Green on screen (as Hulk in The Avengers), green in life, the U.S. actor stopped by Metro's New York office for Earth Day last year to guest-edit the newspaper.

Zero

Mariah Carey

This Airmiles addict diva is famous for an overindulgence of her private jet. She's even been known to fly a personal trainer into New York just for a workout.

Zero

John Travolta

His passion for aviation leaves a hefty carbon footprint. One group estimated that the actor's hobby generates an average of 800 tons of carbon emissions a year.

Zero

Toby Keith

The U.S. country music star warrants a mention for no other reason than releasing the song Red Solo Cup, which celebrates the popular plastic drinking vessel. **NED EHRBAR**

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Paris: The place where Oscar films are made

Filmmakers take note. Forget Bucharest or Bratislava, setting your story in the City of Lights is still a surefire way to grab the Academy's attention

MIKE DOJC
scene@metronews.ca

Sure, weighty subject matter, literary pretension and a heavy hitter cast list can help to tip the scales in the right direction, but a real tell in the past 20 years bien sûr is the Academy's enduring love affair with the City of Lights. The allure of the world's most romantic cosmopolitan playground adds a certain ooh la la factor to films that is unequaled by any other European setting.

This destination bias toward films set in Paris is why Les Miserables (out Christmas day) is a surefire Oscar contender. The grandiloquent musical centering around Jean Valjean, a parole-breaking loaf thief on a redemptive quest, tugs at the heartstrings and even those who fail to get enveloped in the emotional rollercoaster cannot help but hum along to the charming choruses. Can't you just hear the critics toe tapping along to a rousing rendition of Do You Hear the People Sing? while tears stream down their cheeks by the second time "…when the beating of your heart echoes the beating of the drums" comes around.

Before you pshaw at the sentiment-stoking power that causes seasoned film goers to well up when they catch a mere glimpse of the Champs-Élysées or the river Seine, let's examine Woody Allen's Midnight in Paris. The entire movie plays out like a walking tour of the city.

Owen Wilson and his mishpokhe lodge at the five-star Hotel Le Bristol on the Rue du Faubourg-Saint-Honoré and patronize a gaggle of mainline tourist attractions from Monet's garden to Rodin's thinker statue where France's then first lady, the ravishingly beautiful Carla Bruni-Sarkozy, turns up for a cameo as a museum tour guide.

Table time is logged at famed eateries including the Crémerie-Restaurant Polidor, the brasserie where Wilson picks Ernest Hemingway's brain. Despite doubling as a two-hour advertisement for Paris' Convention and Visitors Bureau, the film's warm embrace of the romantic city of cute berets and crisp baguettes led to a quartet of Oscar nominations and a Woody win for best original screenplay.

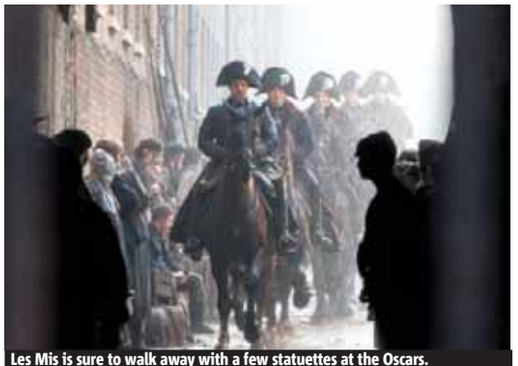
Setting an identically plotted film in Bucharest or Bratislava instead might have intrigued certain cineastes, but the unfamiliarity might have engendered indifference in the hearts and minds of members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences when it came time to punch their ballots.

Imagine for a second if Moulin Rouge was set in a nightclub in 19th century Paris, Texas and the hit song that emerged from the movie featured the far less insouciant "lovely lady, lay with me tonight," lyric in lieu of "voulez vous couchez avec mois ce soir?" Those eight Oscar nominations would go poof.

Amélie, lavished with five Oscar nominations, is another flick where the setting overwhelms the senses, making viewers misty with Parisian wanderlust and wistful to try their own hand at skipping stones from the St. Martin canal. The camera fawns over the colourful shop fronts of Montmartre, imbuing the district with a fairy tale luster. In a particularly poignant scene shimmering with Paris ennui, Amélie aids a blind man in finding his way to the metro. While helping him along Lamarck Street, she paints a vivid picture of the bustling market ambience, offering a play-by-play description of the sights, sounds, and smells that Lonely Planet readers would drool over.

The awards voting crowd is even susceptible to visions of an animated Paris. Pixar's award gobbling Ratatouille makes the mouth water for sophisticated and authentic haute French cuisine like the movie's namesake eggplant dish. Then there's Scorsese's 3D children's movie Hugo, set in the Gare Montparnasse railway station with stunning views of snowflakes falling down on the La Tour Eiffel in the distance. The recipient of 11 Oscar nominations, Hugo leaves viewers longing to peruse antique shops in Paris in search of intricate French clockwork while contemplating the pioneering silent films of Georges Méliès.

Filmmakers angling to be walking on red carpets come award season might want to consider setting their next opus in the French capital.



Les Mis is sure to walk away with a few statuettes at the Oscars.
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Star of Entourage and 'desirable woman' Chriqui talks likes, dislikes

Canadian. Movie and TV star, activist and spokesperson — but what talent does she wish she could have?

MIKE BENHAIM
scene@metronews.ca

Emmanuelle Chriqui is the Montreal-born, Toronto-raised star of Entourage and You Don't Mess with the Zohan.

She is currently working on several films between recurring episodes of The Mentalist, and the former AskMen.com's "most desirable woman" is now the face of natural cosmetics brand, Mineral Fusion. Chriqui lends her time to Raise Hope for Congo, is an activist with the Environmental Media Association and is the spokesperson for Colon Cancer Canada, but she took a few moments to meet with her (third) favourite writer:

What is your idea of perfect happiness?
Waking with an absolute sense of peace. Grounded, and ready to embrace the day without fear.

What is your greatest extravagance?
A 90 minute massage every day. I don't actually get it, but I would if I could.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?
Saving yourself for marriage.

What do you dislike most about your appearance?
More than one thing, but I would have to say my legs. It's like my upper and lower body belong to two different people, and no matter what I do, they don't seem balanced.

Which talent would you most like to have?
I wish I could sing like an R&B diva and play the guitar like Jimmy Hendrix.

Emmanuelle Chriqui HANDOUT

What is your most treasured possession?
My father's ring. I can still see his hands.

Now I wear it on a chain around my neck.

What is the quality you most like in a man?
A few things: Confidence without cockiness, a good sense of humour and thoughtfulness.

What is the quality you most like in a woman?
I love a woman that is empowered and in tune with her goddess energy. I find that inspiring.

What do you most value in your friends?
Unconditional love and loyalty. My friends accept that we have different lives, but they don't judge and defend me when someone does.

I try to do the same for them.

Who are your favourite writers?
After Mike Benhaim? Hah! The author who's had the most profound effect on me is probably Paulo Coelho, but I also really enjoy Khaled Hosseini.

He wrote The Kite Runner and 1000 Splendid Suns. Such a powerful storyteller.

Who are your heroes in real life?
That's easy. My dad has always been my hero. He taught me all of life's lessons with his words and actions.

He never complained, greeted the world with a smile and told me to live life fully and unapologetically. The most important qualities I possess, I owe to him.

What is it that you most dislike?
People whose fears keep them from venturing forward and living the life that they are meant to. It's a waste of a precious existence.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?
Wow. There was a time after my mom died, when as a teenager, I could have gone down a darker path.

Instead, I managed to immerse myself in creative energy and stick to somewhat higher ground.

I am proud of how far I've come and how I am perceived by those who know me.

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Titus Andronicus' new album is called Local Business. PHOTO: KYLE DEAN REINFORD}

Titus Andronicus back Local Business

Latest record. With a lean, mean new album, Jersey punk band are bringing listeners up to speed while fighting negativity

PAT HEALY
Metro World News in Boston

With the first words that Patrick Stickles sings on Local Business, the recently released third album by Titus Andronicus, it would seem that the album would be over before it's even started.

"OK, I think by now we've established everything is inherently worthless," sings Stickles on opening track, Ecce Homo, before concluding, "there's nothing in the universe with any kind of objective purpose."

But the singer says this opening salvo is not as defeatist as it reads on paper, and that it's more about updating listeners just joining the program.

"I thought it would be a good way to start our discussion, and it was kind of a point that we belabored quite a lot in the first two records," says Stickles, "so you just get everybody up to speed and go on from there."

And where exactly can it go from there?

"Hopefully by the end, the hopeful element of it is a little more explicit," says Stickles, "in that in the void of meaning we are empowered to create meaning."

It seems that Titus have created a lot of meaning with Local Business. The production is leaner and meaner and the lyrical content is more introspective than their last effort. This second feat was almost inevitable though, as Titus' 2010 album, The Monitor, was mostly about the Civil War. Local Business is also the band's first album where the lineup that recorded the songs is the same lineup that has been touring to support it. For the most part, Titus has been made up of Stickles, drummer Eric Harm and a revolving door of other players. Does Stickles feel like this lineup will be the one that's finally in it for the long haul?

"I felt that about all the bands, but it hasn't panned out like that," he says, almost cautiously. "But so far this one is going good."

Hair today, gone tomorrow

• **Beard issue.** When Titus began rising to popularity, one of the visual elements that stood out most was Patrick Stickles' big, bushy beard. He shaved it after the tour for The Monitor, and he says he doesn't miss it. "I just was sick of it. I wanted to move on, live a life without it," he says. "Now I talk about it more, go figure."

Autopsy report error

LAPD apologizes to B.I.G.'s family

Police detectives apologized to the family of Notorious B.I.G. for failing to warn them about the planned release of his autopsy report more than 15 years after he died in a drive-by shooting, the Los Angeles Police Department said Saturday.

The detectives had intended to notify the rapper's family, but the report was released prematurely "due to an administrative error," the department said in a statement.

"Our detectives personally spoke with the Wallace family (Friday) night, and apologized for not notifying them prior to the release," said Capt. Billy Hayes, who heads LAPD's Robbery-Homicide Division, which is investigating the killing. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Lindsay Lohan in the holiday spirit — and wanted too!

THE WORD
Monica Weymouth
scene@metronews.ca

Lindsay Lohan, bless her crazy little heart, is getting into the holiday spirit and playing Gossip Santa. Let's review her weekend, shall we?

On Friday, Linds was all smiles in the front row at New York City's Jingle Ball concert during The Wanted's performance. She's rumoured to be dating a member of the boy band, Max George, who more or less confirmed some aspect of some relationship: "We can stay out of trouble and keep her out of trouble," he tells PerezHilton.com. "She can party just as hard as us. She's a great girl."

All "great girl" comments aside, we've endorsed fibre breakfast bars more enthusiastically than that. And it seems like Lohan might be less happy than she's letting on for the cameras — from what Metro heard at the Jingle Ball, she was allegedly seen crying in a bathroom backstage. (Then again, who doesn't have a good cry at their boyfriend's holiday party?)

Not to pile it on, but yesterday TMZ reported that Lohan's finances are in such bad shape that she's struggling to pay the rent on her $8,000-per-month Beverly Hills mansion. Ever since the IRS seized her bank accounts, she's reportedly been hitting up friends for money.

Santa Lohan, at the risk of being greedy, we'd like to submit our Christmas list: One Aniston pregnancy announcement, one Jolie spite pregnancy announcement, two John Stamos rom coms and the Easy-Bake Ultimate Oven.

Megan Fox and Brian Austin Green ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Fox and Austin Green adapt to growing family

Megan Fox and husband Brian Austin Green are thrilled about the arrival of their two-month-old son, Noah, but not everyone in the household is so enthusiastic. "Kash is a little indifferent," Fox tells the Daily Mirror about her 10-year-old stepson, Kassius. "He's not experiencing any sort of jealousy or competitiveness, but he's not excited because he just wants to go play video games."

Catherine Zeta-Jones

Zeta-Jones doesn't want to talk about bipolar

Catherine Zeta-Jones is starting to regret opening up about her 2011 hospitalization for bipolar disorder. "You know what? I'm sick of talking about it because I never wanted to be the poster child for this," she says in an interview with Good Morning America. "I never wanted this to come out publicly. It came out, and I dealt with it in the best way I could, and that was just saying, 'Hey, I'm bipolar.' Everyone has things going on and we deal with them the best we can. We can't jump from the rooftops shouting, 'I have this, look at me. Victim.' No, we all have issues in life."

Twitter

@RebelWilson
Thanks for all the marriage proposals x

@kirstiealley
So I'm a b---- today.. what's wrong with being a b---- ?? It's not like I've stabbed anyone in their Money-maker.....yet

@Rosie
Justin Bieber is Elvis - amazing last night @ jingle ball - didn't love the endless weenie grabs - but god he is angelic and beautiful

@SteveCarell
I'm thinking of starting a roadside assistance service for the desert. I will call it "Camel Tow"

Royal baby makes three

Kate and Will. With the Internet buzzing about the Duchess of Cambridge's pregnancy, Metro's family columnist weighs in

IT'S ALL RELATIVE
Kathy Buckworth,
kathybuckworth.com

Let the baby bump watch begin. Kate and Will are expecting their first child. ALASTAIR GRANT/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The announcement that royal couple Catherine and William are expecting their first child has many speculating how this baby and his or her famous parents will cope.

It can be hard for a normal, common family to adjust to family life. There are a few differences that spring immediately to mind when one thinks of a royal.

Like most new moms, much of Kate's hair will likely fall out during her first few postpartum months. However, unlike most new moms, she could potentially finance a small country with the money she would make by selling it on eBay.

Kate will have to decide what name goes best with the surname Wales.

Sadly, the name Hashtag has already been taken. Luckily, AtSign, DoubleBackSlash and Meme are all still available, should Kate and Will decide that Victoria, Elizabeth, George and Edward are too stuffy and old school.

Kate will have additional parenting challenges due to the fact that paradoxically her child, by virtue of being third in line for the throne, will technically be the boss of her.

Potty training days will bring new meaning to the term "sitting on the throne."

And while most babies are congratulated for speaking their first word, the first royal wave will also have to be rejoiced.

Come birthday time, likely Will Jr. asking for a pony will be a little redundant. But planning the party will be easy for Kate's side of the family, and uncle Harry's sure to be entertaining (and hopefully clothed).

For William, "Bring your child to work day," which doesn't typically happen until the child is 14, will need to be pre-planned now due to the security detail involved.

And there's really no point to Baby Wales taking daddy in for Career Day at school, as no other kid in the class will be able to aspire to have the "next in line for the throne" job.

Instead of sitting in line for hours to sign their child up for swimming lessons, Kate and Will will have to spend hours interviewing the royal swim instructor.

Likewise, the royal soccer coach, royal T-ball trainer and royal lice remover will also be interviewed.

Should their child get lice, they can force everyone around them to cut off their hair. This, history tells us, is a vast improvement over ordering a whole head to be cut off.

Good luck to you, Will and Kate.

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The name game

Think you know what Will and Kate should call the future heir to the throne? Let us know at metronews.ca

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Cardamom spices up Santa's cookies choice

The classic combination of chocolate and macadamia nuts gets a holiday overhaul with the addition of cardamom, one of the most overlooked and unappreciated of the holiday spices. And if baking up a batch of these cookies gets you hooked on cardamom, try it in applesauce, cranberry sauce and rice pudding, too.

This cookie recipe also is incredibly versatile. Mix in any other nuts — or even chopped dried fruit — that appeal to you.

1. Heat oven to 350 F. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper.

2. In bowl, use electric mixer to beat butter, oil, brown sugar, baking soda, salt and cardamom. Add eggs, one at a time, beating between additions.

3. Stir in flour then chocolate chips and macadamia nuts. Scoop dough by tablespoonful onto prepared baking sheets, leaving 2 inches between cookies. Bake for 10-12 mins., or until light golden brown around edges.

4. Let cool on pan for 10 mins., then transfer to rack to finish cooling. Store in airtight container at room temperature for up to a week.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, room temperature
- 1/2 cup canola oil
- 1 1/2 cups brown sugar
- 1/2 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp ground cardamom
- 2 eggs
- 2 3/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 10-oz package mini chocolate chips
- 2 cups chopped toasted macadamia nuts

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Wendy's Vanilla Frosty (Large)

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The In-Credibility Factor

Name: Dr. Jonathan DellaVedova
City: Hamilton, ON
Age: 28
Occupation: Doctor specializing in pediatric medicine

THE IN-CREDIBILITY FACTOR
Teresa Kruze
life@metronews.ca

Dr. DellaVedova (or Dr. DVD as he's referred to by his young patients) always thought he'd be a teacher. On a whim he applied to medical school and has not looked back since. He is currently in his fourth and final year of residency in general pediatrics at McMaster Children's Hospital in Hamilton. In the summer of 2013, he will return to his home town of Sault St. Marie, where he has accepted a job as a community pediatrician.

I knew I was on my way when ... I attended my first delivery of a baby. I was a first year medical student and I was working with an obstetrician that was a total grouch. He let me catch the baby even though I had no clue what I was doing.

Dr. DellaVedova. PROVIDED

When that baby cried, I was so over the moon and I think I was more excited than the actual parents. I was so grateful to the doctor and the parents for letting me be a part of that moment. That's the feeling I try to remember when I get woken up a dozen times a night to attend deliveries and bring a new life into the world.

Do it for yourself, but do it for them, too
There's an enormous amount of commitment and effort that goes into medical training, but you can't get to the first day of medical school or the last day of residency alone. Your family raised you, your teachers taught you, your friends and your partner supported you on the days you were so overwhelmed and sleep deprived that you wanted to quit. The people in your life invest in you because they want to see you succeed, so make it happen.

Pay it forward
The more skills and qualifications you get, the more opportunities will pile up and the more you will find yourself saying, 'No'. But never turn down an audience with aspiring young people or an opportunity to teach. Some day they may be your doctor, nurse, mechanic or food safety inspector.

Get a grip
Working with sick children everyday has an incredible way of putting your problems into perspective and reminding you what is important in life. Yes, you will have to work hard, but enjoy every single moment, take nothing for granted and share the love.

Pour yourself into this backyard biz

Vineyard venture. Do you have what it grapes to uncork a bold new career?

Wines and dimes

"It's less expensive to do grapes than traditional landscaping like shrubs and flowers from an investment viewpoint.

Tom Powers
Winemaker

Growing grapes can be a rewarding pursuit. They're appealing to the eye, pleasing to the palate, a profitable sideline and a reason for parties and neighbourhood togetherness. It's no wonder so many vineyards are cropping up in people's yards.

"The idea of having a landscape that produces something is one of the attractive issues," said Tom Powers, a winemaker who has designed and installed more than 100 small vineyards, mainly around the Alhambra Valley of Contra Costa County, Calif., near where he lives.

"The other thing is the lifestyle of being in wine country is attractive to people and they want to be a part of it."

Property owners often install vineyards when renovating unsightly or underutilized land, said Powers, author of The Organic Backyard Vineyard.

"It's less expensive to do grapes than traditional landscaping like shrubs and flowers from an investment viewpoint," he said. "The trade-out is that you have to put in more maintenance time."

Make no mistake: Vineyards require attention. Rootstocks must be chosen, the soil prepared, trellises and fences built, vines pruned, canopy leaves thinned, nets strung to discourage predators, grape clusters harvested and processed. But the work can be worth it economically. Grape growers from New York to California profit by selling their crops to hobbyists or to wineries that don't have enough tonnage to meet production demands. Other growers, including those who grow table grapes, enjoy exceptional flavours from fruit seldom found in markets.

The small acreage required for a vineyard can generate surprisingly high earnings. "Up to $3,000 to $7,000 per acre in gross returns," according to the Upper Shore Regional Council in Chestertown, Md.

Grapes also are a smart environmental choice given their modest water and fertilizer requirements, plus low soil runoff, the council said. It doesn't take many vines to start a rewarding grape-growing venture. "A 100-foot row of vines can yield up to 175 bottles of wine," Powers said. "With a one-acre vineyard, you could make more than 5,000 bottles."

A mild climate is not required for growing grapes. Many varieties can be grown anywhere there is an ample amount of sun and an abundance of nutrient-rich, well-drained soil.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Cash in on these hot career choices

Profitable paths.
The working world is rough right now, but there are fields that can fill your wallet

YLVA VAN BUUREN
careerbear.com

Looking to make a lot of money fast?

There are some jobs where the sky is the limit for income, says financial expert Lesley Scorgie.

Scorgie is the author of two books: Rich by Thirty: A Young Adult's Guide to Financial Success, and Rich by Forty: A Young Couple's Guide to Building Net Worth. Check out her list of moola-making jobs:

Research budding industry and become a part of it. ISTOCK

Commercial sales rep
A commercial sales representative is someone who sells a product or service for a company.

There are commercial sales reps in many different industries and the most lucrative include health care (pharmaceuticals), real estate and the financial industry (brokers and bankers). "Really, the more you sell, the more you make." In terms of training, many companies will pay for sales training.

Caveat: You've got to have a sales personality, or it will be a flop.

IT services
IT services is a discipline for managing information technology systems.

"Folks are redesigning systems to control financial activities. Governance and management of those systems is turning into lucrative business."

Caveat: These positions are about rebuilding ineffective systems.

Upstart entrepreneur
High risk entrepreneurial ideas that capture trends in some way can be quite lucrative, quite quickly, says Scorgie. "We see lots of examples in the gaming and APP development world right now."

Caveat: The key is captivating the hearts of people so the product becomes a smash hit.

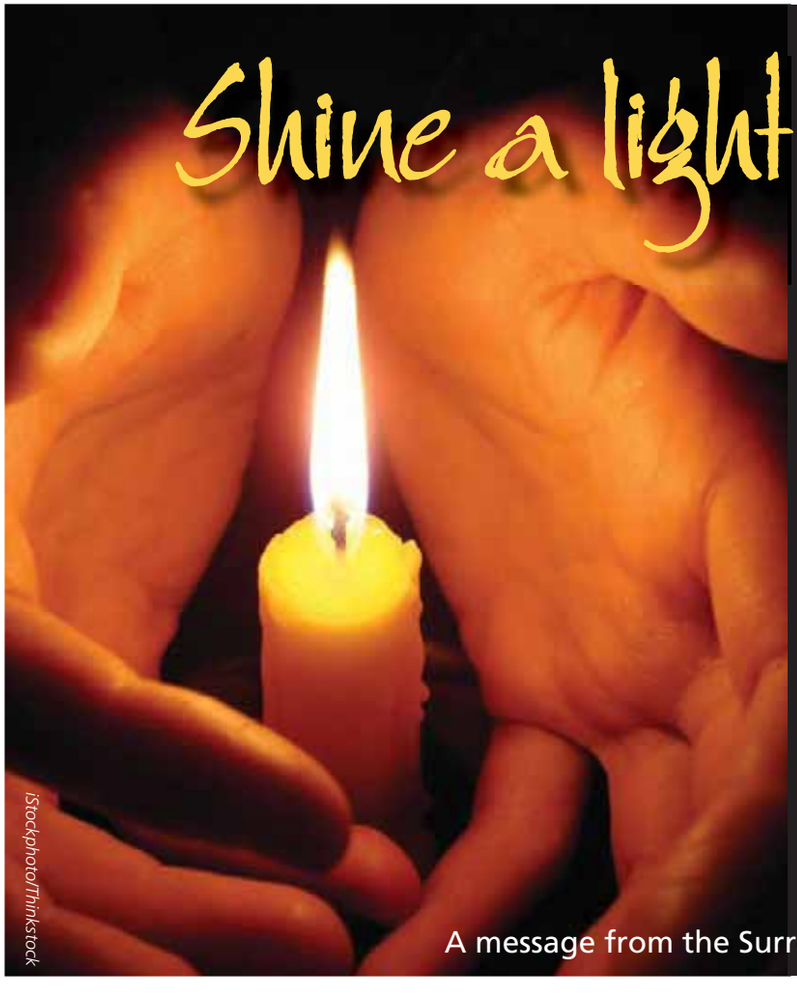
Oil and gas industry job
This is a broad category with a technical side (engineering, geophysics, geology, etc.) and a business development side (where you would find new opportunities for the sector. Water and sustainability initiatives are popular right now). "These positions are generally higher incomes to start, and you progress quickly."

Caveat: People make money when times are good, so it's important to make sure there are benefit plans that include long-term incentives.

Agent
An agent is someone who is authorized to represent another individual (an entertainer or baseball player, for example) who usually makes a lot of money themselves.

The job entails negotiating contracts and terms, and having contacts in the industry.

Caveat: Financial success is usually tied into the sales side of things.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A message from the Surrey Teachers' Association
iStockphoto/Thinkstock

MLB

Phillies pick up all-star Young

The Philadelphia Phillies have acquired seven-time all-star infielder Michael Young from the Texas Rangers for two relief pitchers.

The deal was announced Sunday, a day after Young agreed to waive his no-trade clause.

Michael Young
GETTY IMAGES

The Phillies are sending right-hander Josh Lindblom and minor league righty Lisalverto Bonilla to the Rangers to get Young, who fills a void at third base.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lockout

Hockey talks may resume this week

The NHL and the locked-out players' association are talking again, and a return to the bargaining table could happen soon.

After a few days to cool off following an epic collapse in negotiations, the league and the union have been in touch in an attempt to restart conversations that could save the season.

"Trying to set up something for this week, but nothing finalized yet," NHL deputy commissioner Bill Daly wrote Sunday in an email to The Associated Press.

Negotiations broke down Thursday night after three straight days of talks in New York. Moments after players' association executive director Donald Fehr said he believed the sides were closing in on a deal to end the lockout, he was back at the podium to announce the NHL had rejected the union's latest offer. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MacDonald confirms he's real deal vs. Penn

MMA. Kelowna fighter takes another step on UFC mission, leaving a legend in his wake

Rory MacDonald, left, attacks B.J. Penn on Saturday night at KeyArena in Seattle. GREGORY PAYAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In the second round, Rory (Ares) MacDonald reared back and buried a punch in B.J. Penn's side — as if looking to embed a treat in a ball of dough.

The 33-year-old Hawaiian grimaced and turned away. For a moment, it seemed like he might call it a night. But Penn kept fighting. And the beating continued.

MacDonald showed his championship credentials in a unanimous (30-26, 30-26, 30-27) decision over Penn, a former lightweight and welterweight title-holder. In so doing, he literally treated the future Hall of Famer as a punching bag.

Still the young Canadian rued not stopping Penn earlier.

"It's bittersweet because the job wasn't finished," he said later. "But that's just my outlook to fighting."

MacDonald's approach to mixed martial arts involves hurting people.

"At the end of the day, his main focus in that fight was to damage B.J. Penn," said friend and training partner Mike Ricci. "That's Rory's thing — damage. That's all he wants to do, whether he's in a clinch, standing or on the ground, he comes out there to hurt guys.

Quoted

"When I look across the octagon at somebody, it's just another body to me. Legend or not, I'm going in there to hurt him." Kelowna's Rory MacDonald. His opponent on Saturday night, B.J. Penn, went to hospital after their fight.

"He's not there to win rounds. He wins them because he does so much damage. He's not there to play the game and score points and fight these strategic fights. He goes out there, he keeps his game plan extremely simple and just tries to hurt his opponent."

The fight at KeyArena was third on the bill but had a main-event feel.

MacDonald was the villain of the piece, booed as the stone-faced fighter walked to the cage to Lupe Fiasco's Lightwork. The catcalls turned to wild cheers as Penn followed, to the melodic sounds of his traditional entrance song Hawai'i 78 by the late Israel Kamakawiwo'ole.

The atmosphere was electric. The fight that followed was one-sided.

According to FightMetric, MacDonald had 57 significant strikes to just seven for Penn in the second round, Overall the total was 116-24 in the Canadian's favour.

Consider those numbers and the fact coach Firas Zahabi considers MacDonald "probably the hardest-hitting athlete pound-for-pound I've ever trained" — he switches sparring partners every minute and a half or two minutes back at the gym to save them from abuse — and you have an idea of how much punishment the undersized Hawaiian took.

"Rory looked better than he ever looked," UFC president Dana White said. "The body punches he threw, you don't see punches like that in mixed martial arts."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cowboys gut out win after latest NFL tragedy

Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo leaves the field after the Cowboys beat the Bengals 20-19 on Sunday in Cincinnati. MICHAEL KEATING/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Numb. Grieving. Distracted. The Cowboys were all those things on Sunday, dealing with the death of one teammate and the tribulations of another.

Winners, too, though they hardly felt like it.

Dan Bailey kicked a 40-yard field goal as time ran out, sending the Cowboys to a 20-19 victory over the Cincinnati Bengals that ended a tough afternoon with a little bit of relief and their playoff chances enhanced.

"It's a hard, hard situation we're in," quarterback Tony Romo said. "There's no playbook for this sort of thing in life."

Quoted

"I don't remember crying this much other than maybe the day I was born."

Cowboys defensive lineman Marcus Spears on the emotional toll of playing after the death of one teammate and the arrest of another following an auto accident.

The Cowboys overcame a nine-point deficit in the closing minutes behind Romo, who held his hand over his heart during a moment of silence to honour teammate Jerry Brown before the kickoff. The linebacker died in an auto accident early Saturday.

Defensive lineman Josh Brent, who was driving, was still jailed in Texas on Sunday, charged with intoxication manslaughter.

The Cowboys learned about Brown's death on their flight to Cincinnati on Saturday.

It was the second consecutive week that an NFL team was playing a day after losing a teammate. Kansas City beat Carolina 27-21 one day after linebacker Jovan Belcher shot his girlfriend at their home before driving to the Chiefs practice complex and shooting himself. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

4 SPORTS

Six to watch in Russia

Injuries and the potential end to the NHL lockout might change a few things, but the depth and talent level of players invited to training camps for the world junior championship is breathtaking. Here's a look at some of the most intriguing players expected to star in Ufa, Russia, when the tournament begins Dec. 26.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE
Photos by Getty Images/Metro

Nail Yakupov, Russia

The No. 1 overall pick of the 2012 draft (to Edmonton) gets a chance to shine on the international stage after starring for his hometown team — Neftekhimik Nizhnekamsk — of the KHL. Through 19 games this season, Yakupov has 10 goals and eight assists.

Ryan Nugent-Hopkins, Canada

If a shoulder injury and the NHL don't get in the way, the No. 1 overall pick of the 2011 draft (to Edmonton) will get a taste of playing against a future teammate. The missing link in his impressive hockey resumé is an appearance at this tournament.

Nathan MacKinnon, Canada

What's this? A product of Cole Harbour, N.S., has a chance to go No. 1 in the draft next year? MacKinnon won't play centre — his natural position — but he will get a chance to show scouts his versatility by playing wing. He had five goals and six assists playing within his age group at the Ivan Hlinka tournament in the summer.

Seth Jones, United States

The Portland Winterhawks blue-liner is another potential first-overall pick in the next NHL draft and will go head-to-head for scouts' attention playing against MacKinnon and Team Canada in the same side of the draw. He's the son of former NBA player Popeye Jones.

Aleksander Barkov Jr., Finland

If there's a European out there who could challenge MacKinnon and Jones for the top spot in the draft, it's Barkov, the son of a former Russian hockey player. Barkov returns to Team Finland as the leading scorer for Tappara Tampere of the Finnish top division. At 16 years, four months last year, he became the second-youngest player ever to score at the world juniors.

Morgan Rielly, Canada

The Maple Leafs blue-line prospect (No. 5 in the 2012 draft) wears No. 4 in Moose Jaw and plays a bit like that other famous No. 4. That is to say, he plays all over the ice. At this tournament, his strength will be his skating, and he's got to rein in his free spirit.

NBA. Jazz play sweetly to earn 3rd straight victory

Paul Millsap scored 24 points, Mo Williams added 22 and the Utah Jazz defeated the Los Angeles Lakers 117-110 on Sunday night for their third straight victory.

Kobe Bryant led the Lakers with 34 points, making 12 of 14 free throws, as they fell to 4-7 in their last 11 games.

Al Jefferson and reserves Gordon Hayward and Enes Kanter added 14 points each for the Jazz, who improved to 4-9 on the road in ending a two-game skid away from home.

The Lakers never led in the second half while losing their second in a row. They trailed by three to start the fourth quarter only to get outscored 20-8 and fall behind by 15. Hayward had seven points and Kanter six in Utah's spurt.

Bryant, who shot 9 of 24 while playing 43 minutes, engineered one last charge. He had seven points in a 17-7 run that got the Lakers to 115-110 with 1:10 to play. But he missed two 3-pointers in the final 33 seconds.

Jordan Hill added 17 points and Jodie Meeks 16 off the Lakers bench.

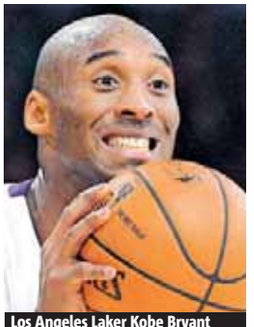
The Jazz owned a 54-34 edge in the paint and outscored the Lakers 19-4 on fast breaks.

Bryant took over in the third with 14 points as the Lakers outscored the Jazz 34-28. He made four straight free throws to leave the Lakers trailing 88-85 going into the fourth.

Dwight Howard's dunk had the Lakers down by one, but the Jazz responded again with another scoring burst to extend their lead.

Howard finished with 11 points and 16 rebounds.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Los Angeles Laker Kobe Bryant reacts to a call Sunday in Los Angeles. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sunday's game

Jazz	Lakers
117	110

NBA

Anthony edges Knicks past Nuggets

Carmelo Anthony returned from a two-game absence with 34 points against his former team, and the New York Knicks beat the Denver Nuggets 112-106 on Sunday night to remain the NBA's lone unbeaten team at home.

Back in the starting lineup after missing two games with a cut on the middle finger of his left hand that required stitches, Anthony twice made baskets in the final 2:08 after Denver had pulled within four points.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Soccer

Mueller's record eighty-sixed by Barca's Messi

Lionel Messi broke German great Gerd Mueller's 40-year-old record for most goals in a year by scoring for the 86th time in 2012 on Sunday.

Lionel Messi GETTY IMAGES

The Argentinian forward scored twice to lead Barcelona to a 2-1 win at Real Betis in the Spanish league match. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Stay focused on your long-term ambitions this week. Ignore all those interesting but unproductive activities that eat into your time and energy but bring no return. What is your number one goal? Go straight for it.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
An upheaval or setback that took place last week may have knocked you out of your stride a bit but you will soon recover. Taurus is a wonderfully resilient sign and you will easily outlast those who oppose you.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
There is a heightened sense of urgency about your activities now and that's good because a lot will happen over the next few days and you will have to move fast to keep up with events. Better still, get ahead of them.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
The best way to further your aims is to help partners and colleagues further their own. The more you help other people now the more they will help you later in the week. You can't do it all on your own.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You need to get serious about certain issues over the next few days. You have been a bit too easygoing of late and some people are beginning to think you cannot be trusted. Go out of your way to prove them wrong.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Make sure you get plenty of rest today because you are going to be very busy come Wednesday and Thursday. You don't have to start the week at a run: start slowly and build up to a pace you feel comfortable with.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
The planets want you to go out and have fun. The planets want to see you enjoy yourself. At this time of year the Sun in the daring sign of Sagittarius gives you the perfect excuse – not that you really need one.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 2 04 - Nov. 22
Some kind of breakthrough is on the cards for the next few days, most likely of a financial nature. You may have to give up one thing to gain another but on balance you will come out on top in the deal.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You will get the chance to do something different today, something out of the ordinary and maybe even a bit outrageous. You enjoy seeing how far you can push your luck, so push away.

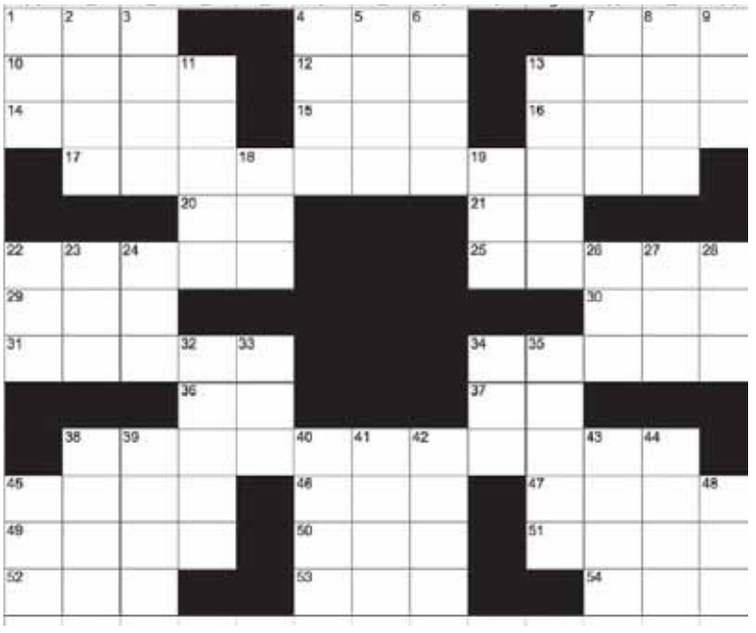
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Make a list of all the things you would like to change in your life, because you will soon get the opportunity to make them happen. Even if you like things pretty much as they are some things can still be better.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
What you most need to realize today is that if you think lucky you are more likely to be lucky. That's not new age mumbo-jumbo: like attracts like and a positive attitude really does make good things happen.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You may not understand why a friend or family member is behaving the way they are but if you are wise you will let them get on with it. The planets suggest it's no big deal – they're just being a bit "anti". Hopefully, those limitations will have taught you the import-ance of timing. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword

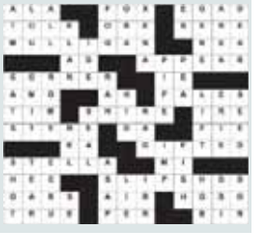
BY BETTY MARTIN



Across
1. Good Morning America's — Champion
4. Comic Margaret —
7. The — Fi Channel
10. Vocal
12. Sleep stage (abbr.)
13. Pinto or lima
14. Actress Bonet of The Cosby Show
15. Boxer called "The Greatest"
16. Hard knocks
17. Pretenses
20. — Elsewhere
21. Former talk show host (init.)
22. South Pacific nation
25. Frasier's dog
29. Three, in Rome
30. Egg cells
31. Path
34. Fictional rabbit
36. Compass pt.
37. Dorothy's aunt
38. Reception, e.g.
45. Great review
46. Soak flax
47. Easy gait
49. Enable, as a felon
50. Family card game
51. Dry
52. Heavy weight
53. Magnum, P.I. actor Selleck
54. Medical suffix

Down
1. Sun God
2. Operatic solo
3. Wad
4. Stuff
5. Second Beatles film
6. Leave off
7. Actor Penn
8. Hats
9. — and outs
11. Noose
13. Group of chicks
18. Actress Hagen
19. Fury
22. Take a rest
23. The Fresh Prince of Bel —
24. Soccer great Hamm
26. Speck
27. — Got a Secret
28. Elephant's floppy feature
32. Small bay
33. Majors of The Six Million Dollar Man
34. Teacher's favourite
35. Spews
38. — San Lucas
39. Tied score
40. Dry
41. House do-over (abbr.)
42. Proton
43. Sandwich cookie
44. Warmed the barstool on Cheers
45. Informer
48. The Naked Truth actress Leoni

Yesterday's Crossword



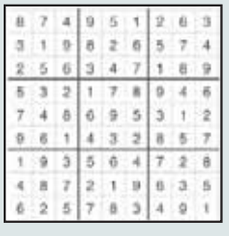
What's online

See today's answers metronews.ca/answers.

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku



4		9				5		3
	5	2	3		1	6	8	
3								4
			8		5			
	7			2			5	
			4		9			
1								8
	2	5	1		7	3	4	
6		7				2		5

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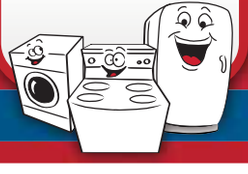

Conveniently Located at:
705 E 17th Ave
(Corner of Fraser & 17th)
Vancouver, British Columbia

Hours of Operation

Monday To Friday	8:00AM - 5:30PM
Saturday	9:00AM - 4:00PM
Sunday	Closed

Tel: 604-879-1555 **Fax: 604-879-1575** **www.HandyAppliances.ca**